

Language Department

Intent:

It is our intent in the Language department in Sheffield Park Academy to ensure that all students leave the school with the ability to read, write and speak effectively in order that they can unlock their potential and achieve their ambitions in the wider world.

Implementation:

Here at Sheffield Park Academy we aim to provide quality teaching at all key stages which improves students' reading, writing and speaking skills. For students who are significantly below their reading age we have put in place specific interventions aimed at addressing the shortcomings in their language abilities.

Upon joining the academy, students will sit an 'NGRT'. This is an online reading test which provides us with a range of data regarding students' decoding and comprehension abilities, and allows us to ascertain and intervene upon particular needs.

At Sheffield Park Academy, all students receive the following literacy and language provision:

- **Form time reading:** Students read 3 times weekly from a curated range of challenging, relevant and exciting books chosen by our Reading Coordinator.
- **Disciplinary Literacy:** All subjects have designed curricula aimed at enabling students to become experts in that discipline. Students learn to 'write like a historian' or 'speak like a biologist' for example.
- **DEAR weekly:** 2 subjects each week spend the first 10 minutes of their lessons reading from specially chosen texts, both fiction and non-fiction.
- **Read20:** An over-arching initiative which promotes daily reading.
- **Accelerated Reader:** a programme which tests students and assigns them books designed to challenge them and help them improve as readers. All students at KS3 now have a library book on them at all times as part of standard equipment.
- **Bedrock homework:** An online platform on which student complete a set number of tasks weekly. Bedrock is designed to support students' language development, specifically their vocabulary.

For students who require extra language intervention, the following provision is also available:

- **Form Time Lexia:** Lexia is an online platform targeted at students identified as having word/sentence level deficits.

- **Read Write Inc:** Students who require RWI interventions are re-tested and placed on a programme of weekly phonics and decoding sessions with specialist members of our Language team.
- **Direct Instruction:** Like RWI interventions detailed above, students who are deemed to require more intensive phonics or decoding instruction can be placed in our Direct Instruction programme. This is a comprehensive programme aimed at boosting students' reading ages over the period of a year.
- **Reading intervention:** We have members of the community who volunteer to come to the academy and read with small groups of students. In addition to this there is a daily reading club which takes place in our school library during breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- **EAL interventions:** New starters to the academy who need basic English instruction are placed into a group with one of our specialists.

Should you wish to have further discussions on our extensive support for developing language, please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr Steve Howes

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