

Year 8 Vocabulary and Reading (VAR)

VAR is a standalone subject that is taught to Key Stage 3 pupils across the curriculum. The lessons are taught by staff from a range of subject areas and pupils will have one lesson every two weeks. Through these lessons, we hope to give pupils more opportunity to read for enjoyment and develop a more extensive (tier 2) vocabulary which will allow them to gain confidence with reading and comprehension across the curriculum.

VAR Lesson Format

After an introductory lesson, explaining the rationale behind VAR to pupils, lessons will generally follow the same format:

1. Retrieval practice – recapping the five words from the previous week.
2. Introduction of this week's 'wonder words' – allowing pupils time to try and figure out the meanings of the words and then exploring the definitions and the etymology of the word.
3. Reading a text as a class – ideally the teacher will read to the class and they will follow with their own copy. In some circumstances, pupils may volunteer to read but pupils should not be forced to read.
4. Reflection on this week's wonder words – can pupils use them correctly in context?

At the end of each term, a reflection lesson will be provided where pupils will complete activities/games/quizzes to check their vocabulary knowledge/use.

Year 8

- From September to Christmas, pupils will be given a booklet of short stories. This has been designed to expose them to a range of different styles/genres/eras. Shirley Jackson's 'The Lottery', WW. Jacobs' 'The Monkey's Paw', Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 'The Yellow Wallpaper'.

Year 8 – 'Mike' by Andrew Norriss. An unexpected and moving tale of family expectations, psychology and learning to be true to yourself and follow your own path.

Reading Support

Identified pupils retested using NGRT in Year 8 to monitor progress.

Specific synthetic phonic program for a small number of pupils identified by primary transition and/or NGRT scores.

IDL support group for identified pupils during one form time per week.

Identified pupils tested using the LASS test and selected for individual specialist reading intervention using selected phonically decodable and structured books.

Year 8 paired reading using Year 10 readers to focus on word recognition and/or comprehension skills during form time once a week.

Library lesson for all pupils during English half termly

Book club – all years