



RICHARD LANDER SCHOOL

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

WELCOME

Many thanks for your support with your child's English study. We welcome your continued efforts and please feel free to contact your child's English teacher with any queries or concerns.

GROUPINGS and SCHEMES

The students in our current Year 7 are taught in broadly banded groups at Richard Lander. There are two parallel top groups, three middle groups and a nurture group. The scheme of work for the year includes the study of The Village, 'Boy 87', World Voices and an Introduction to Shakespeare.

SPELLING

All classes take part in our personalised spelling programme. This programme is based on a system which aims to improve spelling by reinforcing basic sounds and word patterns. Each week, your son/daughter will bring home a set of spellings. There are numerous ways in which your child could learn their spellings ranging from the basic look, say, cover, write, check method to writing the spelling on someone's back!

At times the spellings may appear simplistic however this is essential to reinforce the pattern from its simplest form. For example the word 'her' may be given if the 'h-e-r' pattern is being practised before developing into words such as shepherd.

Each week, students will complete a small test checking their spellings and their understanding of the word's meaning. This process will then be repeated with new spellings.

Ways to learn spellings.

- Look at the word, say the word, cover the word, write the word, check the word
- Write the word in capitals
- Write the word 5 times in a row
- Spell the word, aloud, backwards
- Write the word with a finger in the air
- Write the word making every letter a different colour
- Write the word using a red pen for every vowel
- Write the word with your eyes closed
- Draw a box and write the word to fill the box perfectly
- Cut the letters out of newspapers and magazines then stick them on paper
- Sing them!
- Write the word on someone's back
- Cover a surface with flour and then write the word – this one can be messy!

READING

Encouraging a child to read and fostering a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts that we can give them. Reading widely will undoubtedly assist in their academic success but also gives young people (and the rest of us!) somewhere to escape to – an imagination workout.

Little and often is the key. Every day is brilliant!

- Find a genre, author, series, topic that interests your child. Students can get advice from their English teacher or browse your local bookshop or online bookseller. We have a KS3 reading list on Moodle that can offer some ideas to inspire but often students get their best recommendations from each other.
- Get them into the habit of reading for just 10-15 minutes at the end of the day. This is much better than a two-hour session once a week.
- Encourage through example – talk about what you are reading too. Share books.
- Value all kinds of reading – not just fiction novels: 'The West Briton', a national daily paper, a set of instructions for a product, a celebrity autobiography. Variety is important.

What can you do to help? Ask your child how many books they have read since joining RLS. Listen to them read. Talk about their book. Encourage them to fill any spare moments with reading. Reward their efforts any way you can.

If your child is a reluctant reader – try newspapers, websites, short stories, blogs... Audiobooks are also another way to help them 'catch' the reading bug! E readers can also encourage reading by using technology.

Your role in supporting your child is vital in helping them to become independent and proactive learners and problem solvers – all skills that underpin the KS3 curriculum and form the core of the lessons your child takes part in. If you have any queries or concerns then you should not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher

HELPFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise> (aimed at adult literacy but some useful material)

ANY FURTHER QUERIES – DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S ENGLISH TEACHER:

Ms Hughes (Head of English) ahughes@richardlander.cornwall.sch.uk

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