

18th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has been selected to be taught The Read Write Inc (RWI), Fresh Start programme offered to students in years 7 to 9 who have been assessed as needing additional literacy support to help them in their studies. This will start from **Monday 1st November 2021**.

What is The Read Write Inc, Fresh Start programme?

Fresh Start teaches 11-14 year old struggling readers to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. It is rooted in phonics and uses age-appropriate decodable texts. Students learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words over a short period of time, alongside spelling. Importantly, they then are supported with words they can sound-blend, so they get early success in reading. The more sounds they learn, the greater the range of texts they can read. They experience success from the very beginning and build confidence quickly.

The teaching is delivered by RWI trained Teaching Assistants and the lessons are structured and fun. Lively stories and non-fiction texts that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics are used, and as students re-read the texts, their fluency increases.

Why is this important now?

It is important for students to build on their reading progress after the transition from Primary to Secondary education and The Read Write Inc Fresh Start program is specifically designed as an effective catch-up intervention that targets struggling readers. We know from national studies that the pandemic has particularly affected young people who struggle to read, and this programme is part of our effort to move your child from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

What does this involve?

The programme will be delivered as four one hour lessons per week, which will refresh the students' awareness of phonics, develop reading techniques and boost their confidence in reading. Students will be withdrawn, mainly from English lessons, and it is our desire that the impact of this withdrawal be kept to a minimum. However, their improved reading skills will have a long term positive impact on all subject areas. Students will be assessed halfway through each term.

How can you support your child's reading progress?

Practice is key to reading success and the Modules can also be practiced at home as well as practicing spellings of keywords, which will be set as homework.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Hill

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