

Free Literacy Resources

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Literacy is a core foundation for children and young people’s successful engagement in learning and lifelong achievement. As a school, we are continuing to improve our literacy strategies and engagement to ensure students progress with their reading, oracy and writing skills. Over the past years, we have developed a range of strategies to increase the status of literacy within our school environment, such as investing in the Accelerated Reading Programme, ensuring all students have access to literacy activities during Form Time, celebrating World Book Day and a peer-reading buddies initiative.

As a parent or guardian, you will know that literacy is fundamental to your child’s communication skills and wellbeing. It facilitates them to operate in their everyday lives whilst giving them the lifelong skills to be able to articulate their ideas and understand and interpret the ideas of others.

To support your child during our current lockdown, please find a list of free literacy websites to help your child continue to reach their full potential. These websites can be used as a supplement to the literacy work they are currently being set in English.

Organisation/Website:	Description:
Accelerated Reader https://ukhosted82.renlearn.co.uk/1897015/	Ysgol Rhiwabon runs a reading support initiative for all our students in Years 7 and 8 called 'Accelerated Reader'. This is aimed to enhance all our students’ reading skills and is proving to show significant impact for those students engaging positively with it. Part of the initiative requires students to complete short reading assessments to measure their reading ability.
The Skills Academy by the Literacy Trust https://skillsacademy.literacytrust.org.uk/	Create a free family login to challenge your children to finish reading tasks and learn football tricks, beatbox sounds and breakdance routines.
The Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/	This extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children’s writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon and Jacqueline Wilson.
Project Gutenberg https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/bookshelf/20	Project Gutenberg is an online library of free eBooks. No sign-up is required and you can browse many children’s classics such as ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and ‘Treasure Island’.
CommonLit https://www.commonlit.org/en/intro	CommonLit is a free and non-profit organisation that provides families with excellent reading, writing, communication, and problem-solving tasks. You need to

	create a login but once you have done this, you will have access to hundreds of brilliant activities.
The International Children's Digital Library Foundation http://en.childrenslibrary.org/	The International Children's Digital Library Foundation was established to support children from all over the world with their reading. They have a number of free books suitable for KS3 students that explore different cultures and values from across the world.
Fun Brain https://www.funbrain.com/grade/8	This website has been running since 1997. Fun Brain offers hundreds of games, books, comics, and videos that develop skills in Maths, reading, problem-solving and Literacy.
Ted Education https://ed.ted.com/lessons?category=literature-language	Ted Education has a variety of English and Literacy related videos such as the 'Jabberwocky' and 'The Mystery of Storytelling.'
Magic Blox https://magicblox.com/node/937/reader#.YArf-j7Q2w,fb0=3	A collection of free books but make sure you filter the age to 9-13 as most of the books suit KS2 children. This link will send you straight to 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'.
BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zywfbk7	BBC Bitesize is a widely known online platform that boasts very comprehensive Literacy activities.
Boogle https://www.wordplays.com/boggle	There are quite a few versions of the classic Boggle game online; however, this one has the benefit of being able to turn off the timer and allowing students to either type in the words <i>or</i> click the letters on the board.
Text Twist https://www.brain-games.co.uk/game/TextTwist+2	More anagram fun here. With each level you are given a number of letters and have to make as many words as you can out of them. The main aim though is to find the one biggest word available to advance to the next round.