

## Literacy in Science - Department Rationale

Science has a large and detailed curriculum that is packed with subject specific vocabulary. Pupils can be expected to learn new key words every lesson.

To enable students to carry out independent scientific research and develop their scientific curiosity, supporting their reading skills is an integral part of our teaching. Equally, pupils overwhelmingly need to be able to read and understand texts, if they are to answer exam questions successfully. Due to this, we have a strong focus on literacy in our science teaching so that pupils are equipped with the necessary vocabulary and decoding skills to access texts.

The main elements of our literacy focus:

- Key words are highlighted every lesson and are recorded by pupils when they write the title and date.
- Key word spelling and definition tests are regularly set as HW tasks. Pupils are required to correct any mistakes made.
- We are developing lessons where pupils read subject specific texts as a whole class activity. We use the school methodology of activating prior knowledge, making predictions and summarising content.
- When pupils complete extended writing tasks, the teachers feedback with guidance on spelling, punctuation and grammar. Teachers also scaffold writing, to enable students develop scientific writing skills.