

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter. These newsletters look to help you to implement tried and tested learning strategies at home, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

Marking Codes

Now that the pupils are back into the swing of face-to-face schooling, we're looking to simplify and evolve some of our practices. We're going to use three simple codes in our marking to denote actions that the pupils need to take.

There'll be a poster displayed in classrooms showing these codes:

If a teacher has written one of these codes on the pupil's work, it shows where an improvement can be made. Pupils will make the improvements during DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) in lessons or might be asked to make improvements as part of their homework. When pupils make corrections, they need to use green pen.

Marking Codes: What do they mean?



SP = correct your spelling.

C = add or correct your use of a capital letter.

V = improve your vocabulary by using a more sophisticated word (tier 2).



What is Tier 2 vocabulary?

We've visited this in a learning newsletter before but there will be many new parents who don't know what this term means. All vocabulary is organised by tier.

What are tier 2 words, anyway?

Tier 1: These are the common, everyday words that most children enter school knowing already. These are words like in, out, house, blue, dog, animal.

Tier 2: This tier consists of words that are used across the subject areas and are important for students to know and understand. Included here are process words like analyse and evaluate that students will run into on many standardised tests and that are also used at university level, in many careers, and in everyday life. We really want to get these words into students' long-term memory. These are words like emerge, classify, determine, justify, bicker, flounder.

Tier 3: This tier consists of content-specific vocabulary - the words that are often defined in textbooks or glossaries. These words are important for imparting ideas during lessons and helping to build students' background knowledge. These are words like photosynthesis, geometric, ecosystem.

Why is it important to widen a child's Tier 2 vocabulary?

These words are highly important for reading comprehension and more in-depth describing abilities.

A 2020 study by GL Assessment found that a quarter of all 15 year olds have a reading age of 12 or below, and that the reading ability gap between boys and girls widens significantly after primary school.

When it comes to sitting a GCSE, if a pupil has a reading age of 12 or below, they'll undoubtedly struggle to access and answer an exam paper aimed at a 16 year old with a good vocabulary. Without a wide vocabulary, they are at an immediate disadvantage.

