Welcome to literacy at St. Aloysius' College. Literacy is at the heart of all students' learning; the ability to read, write and communicate effectively is vital in order for our students to succeed in school and beyond.

On this page you can find information how we support your child's literacy development at school, links to useful literacy websites and ideas on how you can support your child's literacy development outside of school.

Literacy at St. Aloysius' College

Literacy whole school marking policy

At St. Aloysius' College we understand the importance of developing literacy skills in all students across the curriculum. In every student's planner there is a copy of the whole school literacy marking policy. We believe that in order to support your son's development in his writing, marking for literacy should form a part of his feedback in all subjects.

Words of the week

Words of the week are published once a week from the 'Free Word' centre, a charity based scheme which provides people with the opportunity to become creative in their expression, encourages creativity and makes words fun. Students have had fun with words unusual and intriguing words such as 'Boffola' and 'Prodnose'. Our words of the week are tweeted weekly on the St. Aloysius' twitter account.

 You can find out more information about 'Free Word' and their innovative work at https://www.freewordcentre.com

The Library

At St. Aloysius' College we promote a positive reading culture amongst our students. Our library is stocked with a wealth of materials for KS3 through to KS5, many of which students are able to borrow for a period of time. Students are encouraged to use the area for independent study, research and to celebrate the enjoyment of reading. The librarian works closely with the

students and staff to ensure the library provides the resources to support students' learning.

Discovery Education

Students are able to catch up with daily news through a 60 second burst of headlines. This resource enables to students to discuss daily news developing their speaking and listening skills and their awareness of issues affecting the world.

Writing Competitions

Students have shown real enthusiasm towards the writing competitions we have had running in the school. Recently two year 9 students had their short stories selected as winners in the Young Writer's 'Grim Tales' competition. In May, over 60 students entered a poetry competition 'Poetopeia' also run by Young Writers, we are awaiting the results!

Through participating in the writing competitions it enables students to think carefully about their literacy skills in a fun and competitive environment. Many of the students who have been winners also get their work published which is a fantastic achievement for them.

Author of the term

We launched 'Author of the term' in September 2016, a reading initiative to encourage students, in particular KS3 to continue their love and passion for reading. Students are set the challenge to try and read as many of the author's books as they can over a term. Malorie Blackman was our first author; students loved reading her novels and were gripped by her storylines.

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)

Every month we hold Drop Everything And Read; a dedicated amount of time given for students to stop what they are doing and read a book. Students and staff really value this time as they have the opportunity to read a book they have chosen.

World Book Day

2016 saw St. Aloysius' College celebrating World Book Day as a whole school. The day involved lessons all based around reading including a whole school reading of a short novel, writing book reviews, D.E.A.R, writing mini sagas and much more! Students and staff also dressed up as their favourite book characters, we sold goodies at our Wonka themed stall and we held a second hand book sale. Money raised from the day enabled us to provide books and educational resources for the children's ward at the Whittington Hospital as well as providing over a 100 new books for Great Ormond Street. Most importantly, students and staff were able to celebrate their love and passion of reading!

We cannot wait to celebrate World Book Day 2017! Activities this year will include a Spelling Bee, a book quiz, whole school reading of a short novel and writing the missing page of the book (to name but a few). For more information and updates on our World Book Day 2017 celebrations please see the dedicated page on the website and follow our *Twitter* updates. You can also visit http://www.worldbookday.com/ to see information about the day, enter competitions, watch videos and take part in activities.

Useful links to literacy websites.

The National Literacy Trust:

This charity aims to raise levels of literacy in the UK. On this website you will links to information on how you can support your child's literacy development.

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/

BBC Bitesize:

Here you will find a range of activities, videos, revision and tests to support your child's literacy.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv

Supporting literacy development outside of school

In this section you will find advice and useful links to support yours and your child's literacy.

BBC Skillswise

BBC Skillswise is a website which offers practical support in developing literacy and numeracy skills for adults.

English Grammar

This user-friendly website offers support for adults to develop their written skills.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/0/

Local Libraries

London councils all have libraries- membership is free and anyone can join – for many councils you do not have to be a resident.

Joining a local library enables you to access a wide range of books, internet, newspapers, music, DVDs and much more. Use the links below to find out about your local library service and information on how to join:

Islington:

Library link:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/libraries/Pages/default.aspx?extra=9

Information on how to join:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/libraries/joinenjoy/howjoin/Pages/default.aspx

<u>Hackney</u>:

Library link:

http://www.hackney.gov.uk/cl-libraries.htm#.VX6v5flVhBc

Information on how to join:

http://www.hackney.gov.uk/libraries-membership-and-joining.htm#.VX6wBflVhBc

<u>Haringey</u>

Library link:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/community-and-leisure/haringey-libraries

Information on how to join:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/community-and-leisure/libraries/how-join-haringey-libraries