

# Why Reading skills ?

Reading skills are vital to long term success, not just in school but success in securing great opportunities in our lives . Modern technology means communication skills are getting faster and more complex . To deal with all these rapid changes that will continue through life, you need some great literacy skills to help you to communicate with others effectively. Great reading is the start of the journey!

**Get Our Accelerated Reader booklet to find out how you can get a head start on your reading skills.**

When teachers talk about reading skills they are not just talking about the ability to recognise a word . There are a number of skills which you need to use to develop reading success. Importantly, at secondary school level it is essential that you read regularly outside of school as well as in school . It has been proven that students who read often are better equipped for success in examinations.

There are some challenges for students making the transition from Key stage 2 into Key stage 3 .

The number of subjects that are studied means that you will come across a wide variety of vocabulary and types of writing, as each subject has its own vocabulary. The ability to read fluently and to be able to confidently interpret a range of types of writing about different topics will help ensure success at GCSE.

The **Keys to Reading Success** in a secondary school begin in Year 7 .However, many of the command words for reading skills in different subjects will be familiar to you in year 7 because you have used them in Key stage 2 . This booklet does outline the **keys to reading success** that are taught and tested across a range of subjects in Key stage 3 and eventually Key stage 4 .

You need to be able to understand what you read in a variety of subjects and to record your own responses in class using appropriate academic language.



## There are 9 Reading Keys

These are used in all subjects.



# Reading Keys Unlock Success

Reading skills Key stage 2 to Key stage 4		Why and when will I need to use this skill?
Skimming and Scanning		You will need to find out information quickly at some point in all of your lessons.
Information retrieval		Examinations in a number of different subjects test this skill in students. During lessons you will have opportunities to practise this skill. You will also need to demonstrate this skill in some of your homework.
Inferences		Examination questions do ask you to demonstrate this skill although it is usually phrased using a different command word. It is a skill used often in subjects such as English, Art, History and Religious Education.
Predictions		This skill is connected to inferences and demonstrates that you can use inference skills and offer reasonable conclusions that are linked to specific evidence. In science making a prediction is based on factual evidence and it is called a hypothesis.
Describe		Examination questions often ask you to describe something and this is a way of you demonstrating what you know and the level of detail that you can communicate.
Explain		Examination questions use this term. You may be explaining some recalled information or explaining might involve making it clear why particular information is important.
Summarise ideas		You will need to be able to identify the most important information about a situation or from a text. A summary needs to be precise and accurate.
Analyse ideas		This skill becomes more and more important as you move towards examinations at the end of Key stage 4. It is a key element of many GCSE subjects. In an analysis you need to look closely or zoom in on particular details.
Make Comparisons		Comparison is a key command in GCSE examinations. By comparing information you will be able to judge what information is most important. This is a skill that is tested across a wide range of subjects.