



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH
FORM CENTRE
**YEAR 9 PARENT
LITERACY
LEAFLET**

The importance of vocabulary in academic success is undeniable. To understand a question fully, students need to know 95% of its vocabulary. Therefore, if students do not adequately and steadily build their vocabulary, reading comprehension and examination performance will be affected. This is key to all subjects and reading age is a huge predictor of exam success.

At Highdown, we use a three-tiered vocabulary system:

Tier 1 words occur frequently in everyday life. For example, table, slowly, write, horrible.

Tier 2 words are more complex, higher level words, students may read these words that are not often in every day speech. For example, consequential, beneficial, analyse, evaluate and derive.

Tier 3 words consist of technical, subject specific vocabulary. These include words such as osmosis in Science, trigonometry in Maths and onomatopoeia in English.

Students arrive knowing Tier 1 words, or they pick them up very quickly. Tier 3 words are covered in subject lessons. **However research suggests that the explicit teaching of Tier 2 words makes the biggest difference.** Because Tier 2 words can be applied to many topics, contexts and often have multiple meanings, the deep understanding of these words is most useful to students. At the end of this leaflet is our year 8 Tier 2 word list.

Activities to Promote Literacy at Home

<p>Share crosswords, wordsearches and interesting word puzzles. There are many great word – based board games (such as boggle).</p>	<p>Keep a “Magic dust book” where you can write all the new words you discover together. When writing essays the students can “sprinkle” the essays with good words from their magic dust book to sound more professional.</p>
<p>Discuss the weekly literacy challenges in the newsletter distributed by the school. These are created from ideas in the book “Closing the Literacy Gap” and focus on encouraging students to become word detectives.</p>	<p>“The Allusionist” is a great podcast that explores the beauty of words and their etymologies. Another productive way to spend those car journeys! “No such thing as a fish” is another great weekly one filled with unusual and interesting facts.</p>
<p>Have debates, but challenge the students to argue against a point they would usually be in favour of. For example: can you convince me that countries shouldn't give aid to other countries? Or, convince me there should be a legal age to own a phone, and that age is 18.</p>	<p>Play word games with the students. There are many great games that can occupy time on a long car journey. My favourite is Ghost. Here is a video of people playing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJjKvr2mxcY ,Here are the written rules: Ghost (game) - Wikipedia</p>
<p>Ask the students to write things as part of helping out. For example, writing the shopping lists, writing to-do lists for the weekend, writing thank you cards or letters to friends and family.</p>	<p>Constantly be on the hunt for bad grammar with the kids. You'll be surprised how many times you might see Your instead of You're. Or a misplaced apostrophe.</p>

TIER 2 WORD LIST

Below is the Year 9 tier 2 word list that we will be focusing on in school during the year, and here are some fun ideas for encouraging understanding of them at home.

- Play “vocab bingo”, each person in the family can pick 9 words to write in a grid. You must sneak your words into conversation, without the others knowing. (You can tell them you sneaked it in after the moment has passed). The first person to get 3 in a row wins bingo.
- Be word detectives and find connections. E.g. perhaps you have found the words “external” and “extract”... they might have something in common due to the letters “ex-“, could you guess what “ex” means? (“Out”).
- Use the Tier 2 list as a sticker chart. The students can “collect” the words in their list throughout the year. If they find the word in the books they are reading, in day to day life, or conversation then they can put a sticker or check mark on the word. Perhaps there are prizes for different amounts of words found “in the wild”.

academy	accompany	acknowledge	adequate	administrate
aggregate	alter	amend	annual	append
appropriate	aspect	assign	attach	author
benefit	brief	capacity	channel	civil
clause	collapse	commit	compatible	complement
compound	compute	concept	conduct	confirm
consent	consist	constrain	consume	context
contrary	controversy	convert	coordinate	correspond
credit	culture	define	denote	derive
deviate	dimension	discriminate	distinct	diverse
domestic	drama	economy	emerge	enable
entity	equip	establish	evaluate	evolve
exhibit	exploit	external	federal	flexible
format	foundation	fund	generation	guarantee
identical	ignorant	immigrate	implicate	impose
incline	index	induce	infrastructure	initial
innovate	inspect	instruct	integrity	interact
interpret	intrinsic	invoke	journal	legislate
licence	maintain	manual	mechanism	migrate
minor	monitor	negate	norm	objective
occur	outcome	overlap	paradigm	parameter
passive	period	phase	pose	practitioner
predict	presume	principal	priority	prohibit
proportion	psychology	pursue	radical	recover
region	reinforce	relevant	remove	resource
restrict	revenue	revolution	route	scheme
sector	shift	simulate	source	stable
straightforward	structure	subsequent	successor	summary
survive	symbol	technique	terminate	trace
transform	transport	undergo	uniform	utilise

