



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH
FORM CENTRE
**YEAR 8 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>Have rap / rhyme battles, challenge the kids to talk in rhyme with you!</p>	<p>Share jokes that involve fun word play (e.g. A bear walked into a bar and said, "Could I have a Water?", the barman said, "Yes, but why the big paws/pause?").</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>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>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=pJiKvr2mxcY ,Here are the written rules: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_(game)</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 with words, perhaps invent new ones! Most words are created from society playing with words that already exist. Portmanteaux are common. "Bromance" for example is used to describe a strong friendship between friends, but is a combination of the words "Brother" and "Romance".</p> <p>Can you find others? Some popular ones are: Chillax, Pokemon, Sitcom, Prequel, Obamacare, Brexit... can you think of others? Can you work out what words these ones originated from?</p>	<p>Parents can encourage students to be "Word Detectives", finding connections between similar words. Breaking down new or known words into smaller component parts. E.g. Telephone, Microphone, Phonics, all have the letter pattern "Phon" in them. Perhaps they have something in common? The pattern "phon" comes from Ancient Greek and means "Voice" or "Sound". Perhaps the student could also next think about the "Micro-" in microphone or the "Tele" in telephone. Being word detectives helps students to see patterns, and take educated guesses at understanding new words.</p>

TIER 2 WORD LIST

Below is the Year 8 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”.

abstract	accommodate	accurate	adapt	adjust	affect
allocate	ambiguous	analyse	apparent	approach	arbitrary
assess	assure	attribute	automate	bond	capable
cease	cite	classic	coincide	commission	community
compile	component	comprise	concentrate	concurrent	confine
conform	considerable	constitute	consult	contemporary	contradict
contribute	converse	cooperate	corporate	create	crucial
deduce	demonstrate	depress	detect	differentiate	discrete
dispose	distribute	domain	draft	dynamic	eliminate
empirical	ensure	equate	erode	ethnic	evident
exclude	explicit	expose	facilitate	finite	focus
forthcoming	function	generate	grant	hypothesis	ideology
image	implement	imply	incidence	incorporate	individual
infer	inhibit	injure	insight	institute	integrate
intense	internal	intervene	investigate	isolate	legal
liberal	logic	manipulate	maximise	mediate	ministry
modify	mutual	neutral	notion	occupy	orient
overall	panel	parallel	partner	percent	perspective
philosophy	potential	precise	preliminary	prime	prior
process	promote	protocol	purchase	quote	rational
regime	regulate	release	rely	resolve	restrain
reveal	revise	role	schedule	section	sequence
similar	somewhat	specify	status	stress	subordinate
substitute	sum	survey	sustain	team	tense
theory	transfer	transmit	ultimate	undertake	unique
vary	virtual	voluntary	whereby		