Contact: Mrs Fitzjohn

26th May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Literacy: Language for life**

At Brooke Weston we know that having a broad and rich vocabulary will lead to success. Research has shown a direct link between academic success and prosperous careers, and those who have a working expansive vocabulary. We also know that this same breadth of vocabulary can underpin students’ confidence and their ability to be articulate - both essential life skills. To encourage this ‘word rich’ ethos at Brooke Weston, we embed Literacy across the whole academy and throughout the curriculum to supports our students with their language journey.

As part of our literacy curriculum we also promote ‘Drop Everything and Read’: an initiative that emphasises the critical importance of reading - powerful enough to stop any lesson and allow students to escape into the world of a book. Students must be prepared with a book every day and every lesson. Just reading for 20 minutes each day will expose a young person to approximately 1,800,000 words over the course of an academic year.

Reading is an essential step towards becoming ‘word rich’, however students also need to be able to utilise their new-found vocabulary. We are providing a vocabulary list for students to reflect upon and assess, looking at the meaning and spelling of these key words. These words provide a platform for them to research definitions and contextualise them, in order to build their confidence in using these words independently and as part of their everyday academic style. Please can they complete the traffic light reflection task prior to their first day and bring this with them along with their ‘Best Piece of Work’ examples.

We want to ensure that every student joining Brooke Weston feels part of this ‘word-rich’ culture and so would like to invite you to take part in our ‘Reading Bingo’ competition over the summer. Students can complete their reading and be entered into a prize draw to win book vouchers to spend!

Many thanks in advance for your support. If you have any further questions about Literacy or any of our initiatives, please contact Mrs Fitzjohn (Literacy Co-ordinator) in the English department.

Yours faithfully,