

# Y8 Supporting your child with English at home

The three crucial skills in Literacy are: **READING, WRITING, SPEAKING, and LISTENING**

Can you resolve to complete one of the below each week with your child?

## **Reading: the key skills in Year 8**

- *Read, understand and respond to texts*
- *Give your opinions*
- *Select evidence from a text to support opinions*
- *Explain meanings*

## **Supporting your child...**

- Read the same book as your child and discuss their opinions on key characters, the 'best bits' of the book, look for proof in the book that supports ideas
- Take trips to the library or to book shops, and spend time looking at blurbs and talking about what might interest them
- Download the BBC News app or Newsround app and talk about what they have learnt about a news item and their views on it over dinner
- Talk about articles in the newspaper that may interest them and share views
- Could reading rewards help? Spending money per book read?

## **Writing: the key skills in Year 8**

- *Write in different forms and styles including: story writing, descriptive writing, writing a letter, writing an article*

## **Supporting your child...**

- When reading articles with your child, discuss the layout, consider why articles are structured in particular ways: images, headlines, shape
- Use [www.pobble365.com](http://www.pobble365.com) as writing inspiration
- Take a lyric from a song and plan a story or a poem together
- Ask them what words they would use to describe the weather, an experience, an event
- Debate the 'hot topics' in the news and ask them to write a speech arguing for or against
- When your child is completing homework, remind them to check it to encourage them to edit
- Always ask your child to proof read their work

## **Speaking and Listening: the key skills in Year 8**

- *Develop confidence in speech and performance, expressing opinions and viewpoints on a range of topics*

## **Supporting your child...**

- Encourage your child to tell you about something they have done during the day for one minute without stopping (time them)
- Ask your child to read pieces of work that they are proud of, considering the use of punctuation and how it can convey meaning and emphasis
- Talk about the news and their opinions/views on what is going on in the world around them, asking them to justify their ideas in three clear arguments/points
- Use music to engage your child in talk. After listening to a song, ask them to tell you about the artist/genre/ whether they like it or dislike it and why

