



Lower School Reading & Research lessons: a brief guide for parents

Overview

All Lower School students have regular Reading & Research lessons, once every two weeks, throughout their first and second year at Abingdon. These lessons help students develop the knowledge, skills and habits necessary for making the most of the information resources available to them, whether through the school library or further afield, and for becoming critical readers and discerning users of digital technologies. Such competencies, sometimes termed 'information literacy' or 'digital literacy', are increasingly important for academic success, for effective performance in the workplace and for citizenship.

First year

In their first year of Reading & Research lessons, students focus on learning how to identify their information needs, find and evaluate relevant information and use it effectively, whether the context is a homework assignment or personal interest.

Term 1	Introduction to library resources , both print and digital. Learning to Discover information through choosing appropriate resources and search strategies.
Term 2	Learning to Understand information through surveying and navigating texts, close reading, questioning and effective note-taking.
Term 3	Learning to Communicate information through direct quotation, paraphrasing, summarising, citation and effective use of images.

Second year

In their second year, students focus on how to critically engage with the information they are likely to encounter online, whether while undertaking independent research, browsing social media feeds or accessing apps.

Term 1	Checking Sources . Who or what is behind the information we encounter? How can we quickly and effectively check the credibility of online sources?
Term 2	Checking Processes . How and why do we encounter information? How can we help ensure that search and feed algorithms serve our best interests?
Term 3	Checking Yourself . What will influence how we respond to information? How can we ensure that our responses are based on careful thought and reflection?

Independent reading

Reading & Research lessons also focus on encouraging and supporting independent reading. Students are taught about the importance of independent reading for academic success and wellbeing, shown how to develop and maintain a habit of independent reading and introduced to stimulating fiction and non-fiction texts. This ties into a wider [programme of support for independent reading](#), run by the library and the English department.

Every Reading & Research lesson is followed by a prep. Students should use this time for independent reading: either one 40 minute session or two 20 minute sessions.