



Reading , Writing, Communication & Mathematics

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Why are reading, writing, communication and mathematics important?

We all know the importance of reading, writing, communication and mathematics (RWCM) skills in school life. However, industry have always valued these skills highly and through consultation the government have also put RWCM at the forefront of education. These four pillars of learning are an integral part of the curriculum in order to prepare our learners for life beyond Groby.

At Groby we feel these core skills need to be developed and well taught in all lessons. For example in Mathematics lessons we are developing reading and writing skills and English lessons have made some provision to develop Mathematics skills.



We want our students to be well equipped in using RWCM skills by the time they leave

Groby and understand they form an important part of everyday life in the 21st century.

Miss Taz Johal (Numeracy Co-ordinator) and Mrs Samantha Auger (Literacy Co-ordinator) work collaboratively to ensure that these skills are developed so that all learners have access to them no matter which subjects they have chosen to study at the college. Should you wish to get further information about RWCM at Groby please contact them at the email addresses given above.

How will this benefit my child at Groby?

RWCM projects at Groby this year

These are some of the projects that your child could get involved in at Groby:

- Peer mentoring - helping those students who could benefit from



- additional support
- Tutor Time interventions
- House competitions including 'Groby does Countdown'
- RWCM assemblies
- World Book Day collaborative event with other colleges
- World Maths Day
- Working with primary schools

- RWCM transition group
- Literacy and football joint initiative with LCFC



Some reasons why Groby is taking a proactive approach:

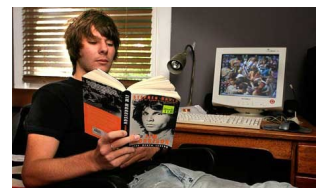
- Across the UK roughly **4 in 5 adults** have a low level of numeracy



- **5.2 million people** in the UK are functionally illiterate
- There is a **wage premium** associated with having better numeracy skills.



- Students who read at home are more likely to achieve **5A*-C at GCSE**



- **58% of women** with low literacy levels live in a non-working household

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Numeracy

As a parent/carer, you are there to give your child their first experiences of numeracy: from sorting toys to baking cakes, from going shopping to learning to ride a bike (and if you're wondering about the maths in riding a bike, just think about speed, distance, balance, wheels etc - it's all numeracy and maths!).

Even if you don't feel confident with numbers, you can still make a huge difference to your child's numeracy confidence and ability.

Here are some things you could do to help your child with their learning of numeracy:

- **Don't** say things like 'I can't do numeracy or maths' or 'I hated maths at school'... your child might start to think like that themselves...
- **Do** talk about the numeracy in everyday life, and ask your child how they work out problems or questions.
- **Do** praise your child for effort, rather than talent.

- **Do** use time at home to practice practical numeracy like shopping or cooking. You could work out whether supermarket offers are really a bargain or not!

The other really important thing is to give your child the opportunity to use and talk about maths every day. This will help them to become a mathematical problem solver, and develop lifelong skills such as:

- Sorting – into groups, into order, and comparing
- Measuring
- Calculating – adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing etc
- Organising and understanding information
- Looking for patterns and relationships between numbers
- Making sense of and checking information – learning to ask 'is this answer sensible?'
- Communicating and presenting information

Literacy

The role of parents and carers in supporting literacy cannot be overstated. You teach your child the power of language from the moment they are born. You respond to the first noises they make, you celebrate their first words and you treasure their first stories.

But your role doesn't have to end when they begin to read and write independently.

Reading (and enjoying reading) at home is proven to improve GCSE outcomes for young people.

So what can you do to support your son or daughter?

- **Do** supply interesting reading material at home. The internet, libraries and the college LRC all have engaging books, magazines and articles that are free to access.
- **Do** promote reading and writing as important skills.
- **Do** read in front of your child. Seeing parents read has a very positive effect on children and young people.

- **Don't** dismiss reading as boring. It has a really negative effect on young people.



Above all else, the RWCM team recognise the pivotal role parents have in shaping and developing young people. And we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.