

# spelling

Students can find spelling a real challenge. They need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts. There are many strategies that you can use that will help your child become a confident and accurate speller.

Making links between the meaning of words and their spelling. For example: sign, signal, signature.

Sound the words out: breaking the word down into phonemes, for example, **c-a-t** and **sh-e-ll**.

Use the look, say, cover, write, check strategy

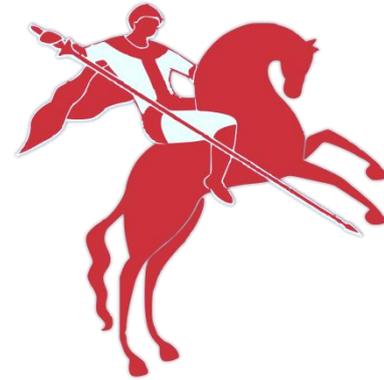
Find words within words. For example separate

Use mnemonics to memorise tricky words. For example, **people**: *People Eat Orange Peel Like Elephants*, and **could**: O U Lucky Duck

Divide the words into syllables, and saying each syllable while writing the word. For example, **re-mem-ber**

Use sayings to remember word orders. For example, 'i before e, except after c' and 'there is definitely no A in definitely'

## St George's Academy



### How to help your child

# English



# READING

Reading is an essential skill for our students . We want to make sure that they can access all areas of the Curriculum and aim high in their achievements. Questioning your child on their reading will encourage them to process what they have read and understood.

## Questions for Parents to ask

### DURING READING:

Invite your child to make predictions. For example, what will this character do next?  
What is going to happen next?

### AFTER READING:

- What did you think about the story?
- What did you like best about this book?
- What is the most important thing you learned?
- I'm wondering if I should read it, what do you think?
- If you could ask the author anything, what else would you like to know?

## Questions for the student to ask themselves

- What did I like or dislike about the book? And why?
- What do I wish had happened?
- What do I wish that author had included?
- What do I think about the characters?
- Can I link this story to anything that has happened to me?

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Retell the story in your own words
- Make a map of setting
- Create a family tree
- List the main events in a flow chart or create a timeline
- Create a machine to do something in the story



Encourage your child to read and quiz in their spare time.

# WRITING

A vast majority of GCSE subjects require students to complete extended pieces of writing. With all of the recent changes to examinations, the priority of SPAG (spelling and grammar) is starting to grow larger.

**If your child comes across an unfamiliar word, get them to use a table like this to record it.**

Unfamiliar word?	Definition	Part of speech	Use it in a sentence

## Help your child proof read their work. Look together for the following things:



Capital letters for names of people and places, days of the week, months, nationalities and titles.

- Full stops at the end of sentences.
- Question marks at the end of questions
- Exclamation marks to end a dramatic sentence
- Commas to show a natural pause or to break up items in a list
- Speech marks used to show a character is speaking
- Apostrophes to show ownership or that letters are missing

## Handwriting

Encourage your child to keep their handwriting neat and legible at all times. If you would like additional support, websites such as [www.handwritingworksheets.com](http://www.handwritingworksheets.com) allow you to use your own text (e.g. extracts from gaming magazines) and turn it into a handwriting worksheet for use at home.