Phonics Programme

At Rumworth School, our phonics programme is designed to accurately identify students' reading needs and provide targeted, effective support to develop their literacy skills.

All students are initially assessed using FFT (Fischer Family Trust) to establish a clear baseline of their phonics knowledge and reading ability. This phonics baseline evaluates students' understanding of letters and sounds, word recognition, and decoding skills, followed by an assessment of reading fluency. In addition, students complete the FFT reading test, which further assesses decoding and reading fluency to ensure a comprehensive picture of each learner's ability.

The information gathered from these assessments is used to inform structured intervention planning. Students are allocated to either one-to-one or small group intervention sessions, depending on their level of need. These sessions are carefully designed to address specific gaps in phonics knowledge and to build confidence in reading.

Following baseline assessment, students access targeted programmes such as Reading Quest or Lightning Squad. These programmes support the development of phonics, decoding, and overall reading skills through structured and engaging practice.

In addition to the phonics assessment, all students are PM benchmarked each term. This provides an up-to-date reading age and ensures that progress is closely monitored over time. Based on this data, each student is assigned an appropriate reading band, which they work within for the duration of the term. This ensures that reading material is both accessible and suitably challenging.

A key strength of the programme is the support provided to Year 7 students. The majority of Year 7 classes are taught by primary-trained staff who specialise in developing early reading and phonics skills. Upon entry, these staff use baseline data to identify gaps in knowledge and deliver targeted teaching to address these areas. This support continues throughout the year to ensure students build strong foundations in reading.

Overall, the phonics programme at Rumworth School is a structured, data-informed approach that ensures all students receive the support they need to develop their reading skills and achieve success.

Useful Links:

https://fft.org.uk/ - FFT general information

https://fft.org.uk/literacy/catchup/ - Lightening Squad

https://fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/FFT-Success-For-All-Phonics-brochure.pdf - Phonics brochure