

Case Study

Pupils at Pontypool school see 31-month reading age increase in just one year

Abersychan Comprehensive School Torfaen, Wales

Abersychan Comprehensive School in Pontypool, adopted the *Read Write Inc. Fresh Start* programme to bring their struggling Key Stage 3 readers up to speed. They were trained in July 2014 and started teaching the programme in September of that year. The results have been staggering.

Pupils were assessed using the Single Word Reading Test after 6 months of using Fresh Start. The average increase in reading age was 16 months. After one year the pupils were tested again, revealing an incredible average reading age increase of 31 months.

	Average gain over 6 months	Average gain over full academic year
All 36 pupils	16 months	31 months
Girls (14/36)	16 months	26 months
Girls FSM (8/14)	17 months	26 months
Girls non-FSM (6/14)	14 months	28 months
Boys (22/36)	16 months	33 months
Boys FSM (5/22)	13 months	17 months
Boys non-FSM (17/22)	17 months	38 months

Table showing average reading gain of Fresh Start pupils, using Single Word Reading Test.

13 of these pupils were free school meal eligible and on average their reading age increased by 24 months over the academic year.

Fiona Walker, Abersychan's Fresh Start teacher, says, "Fresh Start has been such a successful intervention at Abersychan School. Our pupils have made remarkable progress with their reading and have been thoroughly enjoying their Fresh Start classes - as have their teachers!"

Abersychan School books regular Development Days with their trainer, ensuring continual progress and improvement.



LA: **Torfaen**

Age Group: **11 - 16**

Pupils on roll: **920+**

Demographic: **Suburban**

"Fiona is very passionate about the programme and has invested a lot of time and energy into bringing it to life for the pupils. This has resulted in extraordinary progress. The average improvement in reading over the academic year is absolutely fantastic."

Rhianwen Ashford
Consultant Trainer