

“The programme has helped me as an English teacher gain knowledge of phonics teaching and understand that effortless decoding is essential to access both GCSE English and the wider curriculum.”

We spoke to key staff involved in teaching the Fresh Start programme.

High-quality professional development

The resources help our students learning English as an additional language hugely. The visual prompts for phonics and engaging texts keep them enthused and engaged. Previously, I assumed that students automatically acquired phonic knowledge at Key Stage 1 and 2; this is not the case for all. Fresh Start has helped me understand how to teach students to read and access literature. *Inclusion Manager*



“It has been astounding how speedily the boys make progress.”
Reading Leader

Fresh Start makes a significant difference to our struggling readers

Students who previously struggled to read, now sound out words successfully. Their confidence has skyrocketed when they read out loud in class.

Assistant Inclusion Manager

Half-termly assessment leads to speedy progress

The Fresh Start programme is successful in our school. Students and parents thank me for including them in the intervention; teachers grow in confidence and teach students to read effectively. The half-termly assessment and progress tracker allow me to have purposeful conversations with tutors and students and offer next steps, encouragement and praise.

More than ever, I recognise how being able to read effectively is the magic formula for success – both in and out of school. *Reading Leader*

School information

Number of pupils in school: 1031

Pupils identified for Fresh Start in September 2021: 89 from Years 7, 8 and 9

Staff trained: December 2021

Started teaching Fresh Start: January 2022

Equity and inclusion for vulnerable pupils

External agencies (social workers, independent reviewing officers and SEN caseworkers) are blown away by the quality of provision the programme provides. All targeted pupils are screened and taught the programme; equity and inclusion at its best. *Special Educational Needs Coordinator*

Individual students' progress

Student X, Year 7, hardly spoke in class before and is now volunteering to read aloud. He took on the role of Mr Briggs when we read *Our Day Out* and embraced the role of the character. He isn't embarrassed if he stumbles on a word and sounds out those he is unfamiliar with. His reading has improved and he now wants to focus on building fluency and speed. *Student X's reading age increased by 2 years and 6 months after 4 months of Fresh Start teaching.*

Student Y, Year 7, arrived in England in Year 6 and received no individual reading or phonics support in primary school. The Fresh Start programme has helped him significantly with his pronunciation and his spoken English has improved hugely. He has moved up an English set.

Student Y's reading age increased by 3 years and 1 month after 5 months of Fresh Start teaching.

