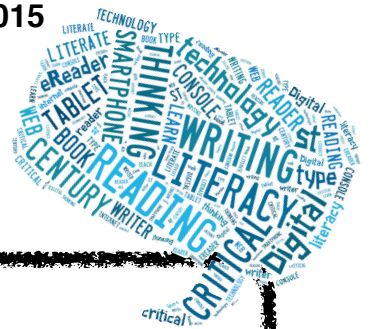


## OBCS Self-Evaluation Literacy Progress Report 2015



## Academic Year 2014/15: Actions

Year three of moving towards improving the literacy levels of our students:

### Base-line data gathered:

A representative sample was taken from the English Entrance Exams 2014 and the Correction Code was applied.

The results were compared with the Christmas exam.

The reading age of all Incoming First Years was obtained.

In line with last year, a representative sample was taken from the English Entrance Exams 2015 and the Correction Code was applied.

### What was done:

- ☒ All first year students were given a Vocabulary Booklet to be used with various subjects.
- ☒ The Correction Code was implemented as a WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY.
- ☒ Initiatives established regarding the school library, website and blog were continued/developed further where possible but ultimately hampered by the lack of a full-time librarian. Funding was not given to the school to support a full-time librarian and this has had a monumentally negative impact on our students.
- ☒ The 'Book in the Bag' scheme could not be launched due to the lack of funding for the library.

## The Results:

Our whole-school target areas were: capital letters, spelling and punctuation.

Our students are writing almost 20% more now than in their Entrance Exams.

Our students are writing 24% more mistake-free sentences than in their Entrance Exams.

Our students are still making a high number of mistakes with their spelling and punctuation.

**Addressing poor spelling needs to become a focus for term three.**

- ✓ The fact that students are writing more in their exams now shows an increase in confidence and, in some cases, students' results were an improvement on their Entrance Exam score.
- ✓ The reduction in mistakes in our three target areas indicates that students have a greater awareness of the mechanics of the English language.
- ✓ Overall, the willingness of teachers to implement the Correction Code shows a shared understanding of the importance of raising literacy levels in our school. This best-practice approach must be an ongoing part of our curricula in OBCS.
- ✓ Testing the representative sample set should be done in the Summer exams to ensure that the improvements noted are not only a natural occurrence stemming from the smooth transition from primary to post-primary, but an improvement due to our targeted developmental work in this area.

**Reflections:**

- 🗣️ The initiatives put in place over the past three years are working. The percentage of improvement surpassed our initial expectations in some areas.
- 🗣️ We did not meet all of our targets in the plan for 2014/15. However, it is the understanding of the Literacy Core Team that this is a living document and as such it is flexible.
- 🗣️ Our focus must be led by the needs of our students. The results at Christmas are telling us that spelling is a weakness and must be addressed.

**Improving literacy levels will be an on-going task and really needs whole school support in order to achieve success.**