

Newcastle-under-Lyme College's Reading Ahead

A Reading Outcomes Framework Toolkit Evaluation

www.readingoutcomesframework.org.uk

Of the students involved:

14%

More students reported that they regularly read different types of media

26 of 55

Respondents to the post-survey read more than 6 books as part of Reading Ahead.

Along a scale of 1-5, students shifted by:

0.37

In response to the statement *'The more I read, the better I become at it'*

0.39

In response to the statement *'I feel confident in expressing my feelings through writing, speaking, art, music or dance'*

Reading Ahead is a programme developed by The Reading Agency and delivered by public libraries, adult learning organisations, workplaces, prisons and colleges across the UK. Participants are challenged to pick **six reads** (either books, newspapers, magazines or websites) and record, rate and review those reads in a diary.

This is the **fifth year** that Newcastle-under-Lyme College has delivered Reading Ahead with students on some of their courses. In 2017, the **programme was expanded** to include students in three departments: Foundation Studies, Early Years and Business Studies. NULC wanted to use the evaluation to **assess** the extent to which students improve their **confidence** and **attitudes** to reading over the course of the programme.

Evaluation Steps

1. **Eight** outcome areas matched to programme goals: reading behaviour; attitudes to reading; confidence about reading; identifying as a reader; critical thinking; self-expression; self-esteem; and communication skills.
2. **12 questions** used from the toolkit or created for this purpose.
3. **Non-matched pre and post paper survey** completed in class.
4. **75 pre** responses and **57 post** responses entered into Excel.
5. Data analysed and report shared.



The team were keen to use this evaluation as an opportunity to assess the extent to which students **improve their confidence and attitudes** to reading over the course of the programme, if at all.

The College intends to deliver the Reading Ahead programme again next year, and hopes to **expand the programme** into another department to benefit more students.