



21st January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to inform you about the tutor reading programme that we run in Years 7 & 8, which pupils take part in during tutor time. It is designed to challenge pupils' reading and thinking beyond what they may choose to read themselves independently, or what they may study and analyse in English lessons, which is an altogether a different discipline.

Tutor-led reading aloud

Pupils already receive a library lesson once a fortnight, as part of their English lessons. This is dedicated to their independent reading. Pupils also benefit from dedicated sessions of tutor-led reading once a week, during their tutor time in the mornings. This time is used for the tutor to model reading aloud to pupils, but it also used to set a calm and purposeful tone to the day and allows the tutor and tutees to bond by sharing stories together. As a school, we prioritise this time to provide pupils with further opportunity to experience new texts, contextualise new vocabulary and be exposed to a range of cultural references that they will continue to value in later life. The books we have chosen have been taken from our 100 Book Challenge, which we encourage all pupils to try and read as many of these by the time they reach Year 9.

How and adult reading aloud can help a child:

- Take away the stress pronouncing words whilst trying to understand the content
- Fluency and expression in reading is modelled
- Improves comprehension and understanding
Improves vocabulary
- Motivates children to read more

Reading for pleasure and challenge at home

We hope that your child will engage in and enjoy the tutor time sessions and that they may be the basis for further discussion and reading at home. Reading for pleasure and for learning, are life-long skills and we know you will be keen to support our drive to increase the quantity and quality of reading that our pupils engage in. This article by Michael Rosen in 'The Guardian' may be of interest: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/mar/09/why-reading-aloud-is-a-vital-bridge-to-literacy>. If you follow the link: <https://bit.ly/YCBReadingAtHome> there is helpful advice and resources to assist you when reading with your child.

Here are some further suggestions of activities to further support your child:

- Join the local library
- Read aloud to your child at home
- Find the book version of a film and compare them
- Try audiobooks to listen to and discuss together
- Encourage your child to read non-fiction books related to your child's interests
- Download a news app and discuss current world events

If you have any questions or would like any further guidance, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me. Thank you for your support in this important endeavour.

Yours sincerely,
Rachel Evans (Literacy Support Officer)

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