



10th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We all know how important it is for our young learners to be able to read and to read well. This year we are working hard to engage and encourage our students to read widely and often across the whole school, not just in their English lessons.

Did you know...

- The average GCSE paper has a reading age of 15 years and 7 months...
- The average GCSE student has a reading age of 13 years...
- In Year 3 students read an average of 36 books a year...
- By Year 10 this is an average of 5 books a year...

What are we doing?

- Tutor Reads has been developed and is now a weekly element of our morning tutor programme
- Our School library is open more often and every day at lunch and after school
- We have invested in new books for class reading and for the library
- We are holding World Book Week – 13 – 17th March
- Library visits – we are planning visits to the local library
- Accelerated Reading programme. We have invested over £10,000 in reading software and reading books.

Reading Expectations

- Students in KS3 must have a reading book with them at all times. This is carried around with them at all times and not left in classroom. Tutors will be checking each morning as part of our equipment checks.
- Students should complete 20 minutes of reading every day and add comments / page numbers to their reading journal, this will become a daily homework task. Students will receive a reading Journal to take home (A5 Exercise book).
 - Book Title (top of page), we only need this at the start of each new book.
 - Date (in margin)
 - Pages read p1-12 (main body of page)
 - Any student comments (main body of page)
 - Parent / Carer comment should be in the main body and should be at least once a week. Comment on how child has read, any difficulties child may have had, any issues child is having, any questions for teacher.
 - When book is complete, students should write a summary of the book and tell us what they enjoyed about the book.

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SMHS World Book Week – 13th – 17th March

- **Masked Reader** – Images and clues given out for Friday Quiz 17/03
- **Non-school uniform day & book costumes** Friday 17th March – prizes for best book costume.
- **Book door** – Tutors decide a book they would like to use to create a door cover for their tutor door. This can be created during tutor time ready for 17/03
- **Get caught Reading** – award tokens for chocolate, achievement points, VIP lounge to those caught revising. W/c 13/03/23
- **Library activities** – as well as the usual library activities you can enjoy, there will be a range of other activities going on throughout the week
- **Easter Challenge** – 'Extreme Reading' take a pic of yourself reading in an extreme / unusual (safe) place.

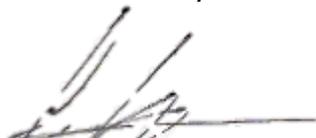
A final thought...

- Reading for 6 minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%
- Read for 20 minutes a day and you'll read 1,800,000 words per year.
- Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top two percent for reading achievement.
- Children learn between 4,000 and 12,000 words per year through reading.

We are really excited about the activities we have planned for World Book Week and beyond. We hope that with all the new opportunities available, all of our students will be reading widely and often at home and at school.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely



F. Gurmin

Head of English & MFL Faculty
Whole School Literacy Lead