

Our Ref: FG/Reading/Yr11

# Stafford Manor High School

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12 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may remember, we wrote to you at the start of the year to map out our plan to engage more students in reading widely at school and at home. I am happy to report that we are seeing an increase in students visiting the school library to choose new books to read, to use the facilities and to catch up with homework. This is so exciting to see and shows us that we are making an impact against this whole school priority.

We are also really excited to announce the installation of our new library software at school, which means it is now much easier for our students to loan their favourite books. Installing this software means we will be able to remind students when books are due back and students will also be able to reserve their favourite books ready for their next choice. We have also been very busy stocking up our shelves with lots of new books. There is now a much bigger range of books for all ages, abilities and preferences. There are so many books to choose from, students are in for a real treat!

We have also made links with our local reading community and completed visits to Rising Brook Library. Now we have made links with the community library and we have an updated school library, we feel we are in a better position to begin our reading at home programme. Research has shown that reading for 20 minutes a day has a multitude of benefits:

- **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 of reading achievement.**
- **Children learn between 4,000 and 12,000 words per year through reading.**
- **Reading before bed regularly can improve your sleep.**

Students have been given their reading journals already, hopefully you will have already had a chance to look over these with your child. Tutors have spent some time going over how to use it and what our expectations are for using this at home. We really hope you will work with us in our journey to encouraging our young people to read widely, confidently and often.

## **Reading Expectations**

- Students should have a reading book with them at all times. This is carried around with them at all times in their school bag and not left in classroom.
- 20 minutes of reading every day which means 140 minutes a week! This will become a suggested daily homework task.
- If students and parents / carers would like to sign and comment on what is being read, in students reading journals, then please do – but this is not compulsory in Year 11.
- It is suggested that students make notes of all books read and to add all new vocabulary to the vocabulary bank.

**Head Teacher** Mr Rhys Adams (BA Hons, M Ed, NPQH)

Email: Headteacher@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

Date	Comment	Parent Signature	
Week beginning 01/10/2023	Joe has enjoyed reading Harry Potter. He has enjoyed talking to me about the characters and how they have developed since the start of the book. Pg107 – 198	Mrs Bloggs	Joe Bloggs

### **A final reminder...**

- 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, students read an average of 5 books a year.

We all know that Year 11 is a stressful time for our students so please do not see this as another task to complete. The idea is that reading at home is an escape from the stress and pressure of GCSEs, not an added stress! With that in mind, there will be no negative sanctions to students if they choose not to read at home. We will be giving positive sanctions for those who do read at home and use their reading journals to track their reading. There will be termly prizes for the most read words and books – amazon gift vouchers, author signed books, chocolate, achievement points and many more.

With all the new opportunities available I am really looking forward to working closely with you to encourage all of our students to read widely, confidently and often at home and at school.

Yours sincerely

F. Gurmin

**Head of English & MFL Faculty and Whole School Literacy Lead**

**Head Teacher** Mr Rhys Adams (BA Hons, M Ed, NPQH)  
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