



16th 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 to support and improve reading?

- 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 over £10,000 in new books for class reading and for the library
- We are holding World Book Week – 13 – 17th March

Reading Expectations

- 20 minutes of reading or revising every day. This will become a daily homework task and must be completed.
- Students can use a reading journal to track their progress with their reading books.
- The Library is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday for students to revise, complete homework or enjoy a book with friends.

SMHS World Book Week – 13th – 17th March

- **Masked Reader** – Members of staff will be hiding behind their masks with their favourite book – can students figure out the clues to find out 'who's that behind the mask?'
- **Non-school uniform day & book costumes** Friday 17th March – Students are allowed to wear their own clothes for a donation of £1 (comic relief). Students are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There will be prizes given out on the day.
- **Book door** – During tutor time students will be decorating their tutor door as a book of their choice. There will be prizes for the most imaginative and original doors.
- **Get caught Reading** – Staff will be looking to catch students reading / revising across the school. Students will be awarded tokens that can be exchanged for chocolate, achievement points and access to the break time VIP lounge.
- **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 picture of yourself reading in an extreme / unusual (safe) place. What's the most unusual place you can read or revise?

Headteacher:
Mr R Adams

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