

Promoting Reading

Students must learn to read fluently with enjoyment and confidence if they are to make progress in their education, in their career and in life in general. The demands of the latest GCSE specifications require students to have high reading ages and the skill of reading is a passport to future work and leisure.

We test students' reading ages on arrival in Year 7 and at regular intervals across their time with us to check whether their reading age is progressing in line with their actual age.

What we do to promote reading:

- Fortnightly library lessons with English teachers to encourage and monitor students' reading at home;
- The library is open throughout the week, before school, at break and lunch, and after school. There are books to suit all students and new books are regularly added. Our librarian is a published Young Adult author and regularly organises visiting writer workshops, as well as running various reading groups;
- Reading interventions for students identified as needing extra support on entry;
- Ensure all teachers in all subjects are aware of students' reading ages, teaching key vocabulary related to their subject and modelling appropriate reading strategies.

How can parents help?

- Encourage a growth mindset towards reading – even if your daughter finds it difficult, she needs to understand that this is ok and that she needs to persevere through the challenges. If she finds it easy, she should be reading more challenging books!
- Make time to listen to your daughter read. Twenty minutes a day (or 20 pages) is a good start. It is also really beneficial when older siblings read with their younger siblings;
- Encourage your daughter and praise the effort and progress that she is making - encourage her to talk about what she has read;
- Ensure that your daughter is continually challenging herself with her reading choices – discuss options from the reading lists provided by the school;
- Read newspapers together and share articles which may be of interest to your daughter;
- Ensure that she attends any additional support clubs if invited;
- Your daughter's teachers will give her lists of key words to learn. Help her with these;
- Get her a card to your local library and encourage her to visit often;
- As your daughter gets older, she may want to spend more time on her mobile phone than on reading – please help her to find an appropriate balance! Even more importantly, set a good example to your daughter by regularly reading yourself.