



6 September 2019

Dear Parents,

### **Personal Reading Books at School**

In an age when technological gadgets and social media compete with more traditional pursuits for our leisure time, we believe that reading books for pleasure is more important than ever. Not only does reading for pleasure improve academic outcomes, but it also helps to develop important traits such as imagination and empathy that are essential to personal and professional life.

To enable and encourage reading for pleasure amongst 3rd Years – a stage when many students lose the reading habit - from Monday 23 September all 3rd Year students will be expected to carry a personal reading book during the school day. While many students already carry reading books in their bags and can be seen reading around school when not engaged in lessons, private study or Other Half, we want this to become standard practice. In order to support this initiative, the School Librarian, Dr Graham Gardner, will be running reading induction sessions during 3rd Year English lessons to familiarise students with the Library, and every week time will be set aside in English lessons for personal reading. Your son's tutor may also make time for silent reading in tutor periods.

Your son's reading books might be fiction or non-fiction, library books or books from home, old books or new books; we do not wish to be prescriptive about you son's personal reading, but the book should offer a level of challenge appropriate to his age and ability. Dr Gardner and your son's English teacher will gladly offer reading recommendations. Dr Gardner has prepared an initial list of recommendations, which is attached to the Weekly Mailing, and further reading lists will be published over the course of the year.

Thank you for your support in this important matter. Please do get in touch if you have any questions at all.

Yours sincerely

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