



ABINGDON

3 September 2020

Dear Parent,

Independent reading at school

In an age when technology, gaming and social media seek to claim our time and attention, independent reading is more important than ever. Such reading – beyond whatever is specified by teachers - not only helps improve academic outcomes; it also helps to develop traits such as imagination and empathy that are essential to personal and professional life.

To support and encourage reading for pleasure amongst Third Years – a stage when many students lose the reading habit - all Third Year boys should carry a personal reading book during the school day. When a suitable opportunity presents itself, they can pull out their book and read. 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.

The books your son chooses to have with him can be fiction or factual, from the school library or from home, old or new. We do not wish to be prescriptive about your son's reading – choice and autonomy are hugely important - but what he reads should offer a level of challenge appropriate to his age and ability.

To help the many students who struggle to find a book that interests them, 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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