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17th September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Years 8 and 9 -The Importance of Reading

Reading is a core component of our English curriculum in KS3; there is a positive correlation between how often a pupil reads and how academically successful they are. However, for our department, reading is not just for academic achievement: we want our pupils to read for pleasure. It should not be viewed as a chore but a relaxing past time which can be very personal or it can be shared with others.

There are numerous benefits of reading on a regular basis. It helps to:

- Improve and enhance concentration
- Relax the body, calming the mind whilst exercising the connections in the brain
- Broaden vocabulary; improve spelling and grammar
- Increase general knowledge
- Gain a better understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- Encourage a thirst for knowledge
- Improve the ability to write well
- Develop an individual's imagination/creativity
- Develop empathy

Our aim at The Holt School is to develop our pupils' passion and love for reading by making it fun and interactive. In KS3, every English lesson begins with 10 minutes of private reading. Pupils are required, as part of their equipment, to have reading materials with them for each lesson – this can be fiction or non-fiction.


This year, we have specially introduced genre based **Recommended Reading Lists** (attached) for our pupils which are very visible around our department. They will be shared with them in lessons by their English Teachers and in especially planned assemblies. We would like our pupils to delve into these lists and use them as a springboard to develop and extend their personal reading habits.

We would also like to introduce **The Holt Teen Reading Challenge** which is available to all students from Years 8 to 13. The aim of this challenge is to read six books by Easter 2020. Students will have to collect a challenge card from The Holt LRC; each time they complete a book, the challenge card will be stamped creating a record. The challenge starts on **16th September 2019 and runs until April 3rd 2020**. At the end of the challenge, six winners will win a YA book filled goody bag! Ample incentive to get involved!

Parents can be crucial role models in fostering a love of reading in their children. We hope you will be able to support us in our reading initiatives this upcoming term and throughout the rest of the academic year.

Together, let's open and flick through the pages of these books which open the doors to new worlds for our children.

Yours sincerely



Laeeqan Mirza
Second in English
KS3 Coordinator