

4th September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: The Learning Resource Centre and the Importance of Reading

I would like to warmly welcome you and your daughter to The Holt School and our English Department. I hope the upcoming years will develop your daughter's interest and enthusiasm for our subject and enable them to fulfil their potential and widen their curiosity.

Reading is a core component of our 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
- Improves the ability to write well
- Develop an individual's imagination/creativity
- Develop empathy

Our aim at The Holt 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. For Year 7, a very special privilege: 1 of their 7 fortnightly English lessons is held in The Learning Resource Centre under the guidance of their English Teacher and the LRC Manager, Mrs. Heard. This aspect of the curriculum has undergone a major revamp this year to make full use of the bolstered resources we have.

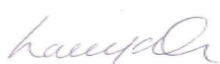
Each Year 7 pupil will be given an LRC Booklet by their teacher which they must remember to bring to every LRC lesson. This booklet contains a wide range of engaging, well-structured activities which aim to encourage pupils to read books from genres they enjoy but also persuades them to explore other genres they may not have previously considered.

To encourage reading beyond the classroom, we have developed a reading list that is genre focused (attached); pupils are expected to select one book from this reading list to read in lessons and at home. This book can be borrowed from the LRC or from your local library. In some cases, if possible, the book can be bought and later swapped between pupils. As parents, we would like you to discuss what your daughter is reading and ask her questions about it. We would also like you to sign the form at the back of the LRC Booklet to show us you are actively involved in your daughter's progression within the reading list and hopefully her enthusiasm for reading!

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 this venture 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



Laeeqah Mirza
Second in English
KS3 Coordinator