



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### English Reading Programme

In our senior leadership meetings here at Maiden Erlegh, we have been reflecting a lot recently on the words of Doug Lemov, author of 'Reading Reconsidered':

*'Of the subjects taught in school, reading is first among equals – the most singular in importance because all others rely on it. Excellence in almost any academic subject requires strong reading. This applies to the history, maths, science, arts and other subjects that students study.*

*If our hopes and expectations for our students stretch far – to the highest levels of accomplishment and learning – then our responsibility includes preparing them to read with rigour, independence, precision and insight in the long run'.*

In the modern era children are all too often accessing moving imagery through screens rather than reading a book, novel or other written pieces. This hinders their development and as a school we are passionate about ensuring all students have the opportunity to develop their reading skills and access to cultural capital. As a result, from September, we will be trialling a new tutor group reading programme in Year 7 with a view to extending it across the whole school.

Our tutor group reading programme is designed to:

- Instil a love of reading and a love of literature in our students
- Model fluent reading for students
- Expose students to texts and ideas that may be above their reading level
- Develop the cultural capital of our students beyond their existing realm of experience
- Provide opportunities for students to share in the experience of reading beyond the classroom

Every half term, Year 7 students will be asked to read a set text alongside other members of their tutor group. The texts have been pre-selected in liaison with our English department to ensure that they cover a range of genres and are accessible for all students. We are asking parents to fund the purchase of just one initial book to start the programme but books will then rotate through tutor groups until each student has read at least five texts. The books that have been chosen are as follows:

- 'Fox Girl and the White Gazelle' – Victoria Williamson
- 'Pig Heart Boy' – Malorie Blackman
- 'Framed' – Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- 'The Graveyard Book' – Neil Gaiman
- 'Stormbreaker' – Anthony Horowitz
- 'The Garbage King' – Elizabeth Laird
- 'The Children of Willesden Lane' – Lee Cohen and Mona Golabek (Non-Fiction)
- 'Who Let the Gods Out?' – Maz Evans

We continue to advocate 20 minutes of reading *every day* for *every* student and do ask for your support with this. However, we will also be offering the following opportunities during the school day:

- Weekly tutor session dedicated to reading. The tutor will read aloud from a designated chapter. Chapters to be focused on will be shared with students in advance to act as mini reading deadlines to help them stay on track.
- Fortnightly reading lesson within English where students can continue to read their tutor reading programme book or a book of their own choice.
- DEAR lessons where the school 'Drops Everything And Reads' on a rotational basis.
- A Friday tutor session per half term where the tutor and/or SLG will facilitate discussion, share ideas about what they have read and ask questions of the text and/or each other.

We do recognise that many of our students are keen readers who are comfortable in making their own independent reading choices and reading in excess of one book per half term. The introduction of the tutor reading programme is to ensure that all students are reading and engaging with the material outside of lessons and we would still encourage keen readers to seek advice about more challenging reads and to pursue their own reading preferences in addition to this minimum requirement.

To launch the scheme, we are asking for a voluntary payment of £6.50 to fund access to at least five books across the year. Payments are requested via ParentPay and have been allocated to your child. Should you be in receipt of the Pupil Premium grant your book will be funded.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Gibson', with a flourish at the end.

Mr P Gibson  
Headteacher