



9 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 7 into Year 8 - Autumn 2021 Term -Tutor 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'.

Recent parent surveys suggested that more is needed to promote reading for pleasure amongst our student body 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 launching a tutor group reading programme in Year 8.

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 new and diverse texts and ideas
- Develop the cultural capital of our students beyond their existing realm of experience
- Provide opportunities for students to share in the experience of reading for pleasure beyond the classroom

Approximately every half term, students will be asked to read a set text alongside other members of their tutor group.

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.
- Regular reading time within English lessons 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 tutor session per half term where the tutor will facilitate discussion, encourage students to share ideas about what they have read and ask questions of the text and/or each other.

The texts have been pre-selected in liaison with our English department to ensure that they cover a range of age-appropriate genres and interest levels. Occasionally, texts may touch upon more sensitive issues (for example, relationships or bereavement) but nothing that is not in line with relevant PSMSC objectives. If your child is uncomfortable reading a particular text or section of text, they should speak with their form tutor or Head of Year who will be able to support them as appropriate. This programme is designed to promote the enjoyment of reading and students will not be formally assessed through the scheme.

We obviously recognise that many of our students are keen readers who are comfortable in making their own independent reading choices and are already 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 payment of £10 to fund access to at least five books across the year and each subsequent year of the programme. Students are responsible for taking care of the books they are given and we will be asking for a further contribution should books get lost or damaged beyond what we consider to be reasonable wear and tear. The books that have been chosen for this year group are outlined below.

Payments are requested via Parent Pay and have been allocated to your child. Please use the following link: <https://www.parentpay.com/>. Should you have any issues with your access please contact us on the following email address: [parentpay@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:parentpay@maidenerleghtrust.org). We may be able to provide financial assistance for those students who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Please email the school office if this is the case [mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Year 8 tutor reads:

- I Am Malala – Malala Yousafzai
- Bone Talk – Candy Gourlay
- Rebound – Kwame Alexander
- Mortal Engines – Philip Reeve
- The Red Ribbon - Lucy Addlington
- Boys Don't Knit (In Public) – T S Easton
- A Skinful of Shadows – Frances Hardinge
- The Extinction Trials – S M Wilson
- The Ostrich Boys – Keith Gray

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the following email address [E.Roberts@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:E.Roberts@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Yours sincerely



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Assistant Headteacher