



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 - Tutor Reading Programme

At Maiden Erlegh School we are committed to ensuring that all students can read at their age level and appreciate the value of reading.

To help ensure that students are exposed to a wide range of high quality, age appropriate and diverse texts, we have created our own canon of texts which are read during tutor time.

The Maiden Erlegh Tutor Reading Programme is designed to:

- Model fluent reading for students
- Expose all students to a broad range of 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 subject classroom

Every half term, students will be asked to read a set text alongside other members of their tutor group. The texts have been pre-selected to ensure that they cover a range of genres and are age appropriate in terms of reading and interest level. The books that have been chosen for Year 8 are outlined overleaf.

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 Friday 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.
- a Friday 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 as well as recommend similar reads they might enjoy

We do 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.

We also appreciate that some of our students might be reading below their age level or have additional needs which impact their ability to access printed texts. I include some advice to parents supporting such students at home at the end of this communication and will also be sending details of additional resources available in due course, which will assist eligible students in accessing the set texts.

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

Yours sincerely



Miss E Roberts
Assistant Headteacher
Reading Lead

Advice for parents of SEN students, those currently reading below their chronological age level or students suffering from a lack of motivation in this area:

- The tutor reading programme is designed to improve access to quality texts but students are not assessed on their reading of these texts at any stage. Students are encouraged to engage *as far as possible* with each text but we understand that engagement with each text will vary from student to student based on reading preference, ability and motivation.
- Students will be read *to* each week and are encouraged to follow the text as best they can; they may wish to use a ruler or postcard to help them follow the text on the page.
- The reading is divided up into short, manageable sections each week and parents are welcome to support their child at home by reading with them or to them as part of our 20mins per day recommendation.
- Further guidance will be sent to parents of eligible students regarding RNIB Bookshare, a resource designed to support students whose needs might mean that they require access to audio or customisable electronic formats (e.g. specific font size, background colour etc.)
- Tutors will be reminded to review the individual needs within their tutor group and will adapt the reading session as far as possible in order to ensure students feel supported with their reading.
- As always at Maiden Erleigh School, do feel free to contact us with any questions or for advice about how to best support your child. Your child's tutor, Head of Year or Miss Roberts, Reading Lead, will be happy to assist you.

Year 8 texts for 2022-23:

- 'Invictus' – Ryan Graudin
- 'Bone Talk' – Candy Gourlay
- 'Rebound' – Kwame Alexander
- 'Mortal Engines' – Philip Reeve
- 'The Red Ribbon' – Lucy Adlington
- 'You Are A Champion' – Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka
- 'A Skinful of Shadows' – Frances Hardinge
- 'The Extinction Trials' – S M Wilson
- 'The Ostrich Boys' – Keith Gray