



14 September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 7 - 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 in Years 7-11.

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 in Years 7-11 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.

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 for Year 7 are outlined below.

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.
- regular reading time within some English lessons where students can continue to read their tutor reading programme book or a book of their own choice.
- 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 have included some advice below to parents supporting such students at home and will also be sending details of additional resources available which will assist eligible students in accessing the set texts.

**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.** Payments should be made using ParentPay which can be accessed via 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).

**Should your child be eligible for Pupil Premium, a book will be provided.**

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via [mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org).

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 Erlegh 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 7 texts for 2022-23**

- The Children of Willesden Lane
- Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman
- Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz
- Framed – Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- Who Let the Gods Out? – Maz Evans
- The Garbage King – Elizabeth Laird
- The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman
- The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase