

AUDENSHAW SCHOOL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO HELP BUILD EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MEN.

Principal: Mr P Taylor

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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to all parents and carers to share information about the work being done in our school to support all students with their reading. Reading has been highlighted as a national issue for young people and something that the school would like to work in partnership with parents to improve.

Extensive international research shows that being a frequent reader is associated with a range of academic, social and emotional benefits. Multiple studies suggest that enjoyment is associated with higher reading performance. In effect, pupils who are reading regularly for enjoyment give themselves unofficial reading lessons, supporting their reading comprehension.

Wider recreational reading has been shown to expand pupils' knowledge about the world and about language, as well as their understanding of subject-specific academic and technical vocabulary. Such knowledge eases their access to the whole curriculum. For many students, reading is also a form of relaxation, a place to escape everyday challenges and a source of entertainment. Reading allows readers to adopt new perspectives, develop empathy and become more socially conscious.

At the end of the last academic year and at the beginning of this one, all students in the school have completed a reading test. This test produces a reading age, shared with parents through Class Charts under the 'Pupil Fields' green banner, and helps teachers to identify strategies to improve students' reading and comprehension skills in their lessons. As with any diagnostic test, the accuracy is only as good as the engagement maintained by the student. Teaching staff have also completed further training in how to maximise reading opportunities in lessons, to help students gain more confidence in these areas. The testing of students will be done annually to measure the impact of the interventions put in place.

Students who might need further help with reading are involved with small-group interventions taking place during form-time. This is a rolling three-week program to maximise the number of students being supported while also ensuring that the boys are not missing other activities in form time.

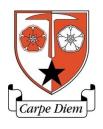
The school library is also open at lunchtimes for Year 7 and Year 8 boys to borrow books and for quiet reading. It is open after school for Year 11 students after school for quiet study and resources are being bought to support this. There will be times for Year 9 and Year 10 students to use the library soon and this will be shared through the extracurricular offer.

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Parents can also support their boys reading and I have included a number of useful links for tips provided by the government and other relevant organisations.

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read

If you have any questions about the reading offer at the school, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Mr N. Herbert Assistant Principal (KS3)

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