



28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

At Mark Rutherford School we believe that all students should read for pleasure and want to embed this further within our reading culture at the school. Reading is something that staff feel passionate about, particularly given how powerful a contribution it can make in determining a child's future. As we begin another academic year at Mark Rutherford School, I thought it to be important that we share our vision for reading.

### **Tutor Time Reading Programme**

In September we started our tutor-based reading initiative. All students in Key Stages 3 and 4 are following a designated reading programme within tutor time. For one morning within the week tutors will read aloud to their tutees, promoting the idea of reading for enjoyment. All students will read one book per term with their tutor before rotating with another tutor group. At the end of the academic year, all students would have read three books within their tutor group.

### **Recommended Reading Lists**

On the Mark Rutherford School website beneath our Literacy tab we share recommended reading lists for students in Years 7 to 13. These lists have been compiled with reading for pleasure in mind and can be an extremely useful tool for every child at the school. I do however appreciate that children read at differing levels and therefore some students may want to look at books on other lists. All of these books can be found in our well-stocked library. If your child would like a listed book or is looking for something else, then please ask them to speak to our Librarian Mrs Unwin who is more than happy to help with their request. Our library is open to all year groups every breaktime as well as after school.

### **New Group Reading Tests (NGRT)**

At the end of the last academic year all students in Years 7-10 took an online reading test. Our new Year 7 students will be taking their NGRT before October half term. This is a standardised assessment which allows us to measure the reading skills of all students at the school, comparing their result against the national average. This allows us to have assess their knowledge of phonics, comprehension, decoding, vocabulary and inference. This provides us with an accurate reading age for all students. These tests are taken annually and allow us to measure students' progress throughout the year as well as informing target setting.

Reading is a priority for us at Mark Rutherford School as we are aware of the level of contribution it can have to a child's success. The average reading age required to successfully access a GCSE exam paper is 15 years and seven months. Students who read for approximately twenty minutes a day are those who typically make the most progress. With our support as well as parental engagement, we are confident in our students' ability to succeed.

Your child's current reading age test result.....

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader or anything reading-related, please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr Johnson  
Literacy Lead and Teacher of English