



21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## **Reading at King's Norton Boys' 2020**

We are always looking at ways to develop our boys further and enhance our curriculum delivery to ensure that our students can excel and meet their potential. For year 7 our next step is to make some changes to our English provision especially around 'reading'.

Current research and data has revealed a concerning picture surrounding reading and literacy in the UK:

- 1 in 5 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11.
- 17% of 15-year-olds in England do not have a minimum level of proficiency in literacy.
- England is the only country (out of 24 OECD countries) where those aged between 16 - 24 have lower literacy and numeracy skills than 55 - 65-year-olds.
- 16% of adults (around 5.8 million people) in England and Northern Ireland score at the lowest level of proficiency in literacy (at or below

It is shown that reading, for 20 minutes a day, can significantly improve students' progress. In addition, reading for pleasure has been found to reduce stress and anxiety; increase results in academic exams; boost self-esteem and increased capacity in later life.

With this in mind, we will be making some changes to the English timetable and provision. On our return from half-term (week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020) one of your son's English lessons (over the two-week timetable) will become a dedicated reading lesson. Your son will spend the majority of the hour reading an appropriate book of his choice in order to promote reading for pleasure as much as possible. There will be a reading booklet for students to work through as the year progresses and this will, in most cases, replace one of their set English homework tasks. We would encourage you to discuss your son's reading material with him and check the tasks set with your son on a regular basis and where possible. (this will be documented on Show My Homework).

We do however need your help. Although we have some books that are available in each English classroom that boys can use to get them started, we do not currently have the facilities for students to borrow library books due to the closure of the library some years ago. If our boys are reading their own selections, the impact will undoubtedly be enhanced therefore, as the lessons develop, we would like the boys to bring in the book that they are reading at home. If you have time to discuss and support them with this over the remainder of the year that would be a great help.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss D Thomas**  
**Second in English &**  
**Whole School Literacy Lead**

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