



Dear Parent/Carer

As developing a student's literacy skills is an integral part of a child's education, we wanted to write to you to tell you some important information regarding reading and vocabulary at West Coventry Academy.

Tutor Time Reading Programme

We are really excited to be continuing with our Tutor Time Reading Programme this year. In years seven to ten, during registration, students will be reading a short story with their form tutor. We will be looking at a variety of texts and considering key questions around different themes once a week. Tutors will model fluent reading to students whilst they track the text before completing comprehension questions.

Why are we doing this? There is growing evidence to suggest that reading is one of the best ways to improve academic performance in the long-term. Reading at tutor time support students to develop a range of skills to take into the classroom such as decoding vocabulary and developing their comprehension.

Key benefits of reading together:

1. A social experience that builds a sense of community and belonging.
2. Regular modelling of fluent, passionate reading delivered by tutors.
3. Exposure to words and phrases not found in everyday dialogue.
4. Coverage of a wealth of themes and concepts valuable for personal development.
5. On-going improvement in independent reading skills.

What are we reading?

Texts have been selected carefully to ensure that the narratives address age-appropriate themes as well as giving students the opportunity to explore diverse life experiences, cultures and identities while increasing their reading skills and vocabulary knowledge. The texts and follow up activities will change over the course of each term. A sample of the texts students will be reading this term includes:

Year 7: Tender Earth by Sita Brahmachari, May Malone by David Almond and Terror Kid by Benjamin Zephaniah

Year 8: The Colour of Humanity by Bali Rai, Loose Change by Andrea Levy and Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy

Year 9: My Polish Teacher's Tie by Helen Dunmore, Brownies by ZZ Packer, Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence

Year 10: Liking What You See by Ted Chiang and Every Man Dies Alone by Hans Fallada

How can you support your child at home?

Please do ask your child about the book that they are reading in tutor time. They may wish to discuss the plot and characters with you and the issues and experiences those characters face. Please support your child in reading at home. Even 10minutes of reading will make an improvement to your child's fluency and understanding of vocabulary which will support them in their learning at school.



Library Reading Lessons

Students in Year 7 will also have a library reading lesson once per fortnight. These lessons provide students to the opportunity to read aloud in small groups, led by a teaching member of staff. Once again, this provides students with opportunities to develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills whilst enjoying reading for pleasure.

Library

We are incredibly fortunate at West Coventry Academy to have a fantastic library space and librarian Mrs Wilkins. If students are unsure of the type of book they would like to read, please speak to Mrs Wilkins or our student librarians, as they will be able to make suggestions. There are thousands of books in our library so we guarantee to find a book for everyone.

Sparx Reader

All students in Yr7-9 will be issued with an account on Sparx reader. This is an online platform where they are rewarded for their reading. English teachers will be setting weekly homework for students on sparx reader. Students choose a book, and Sparx reader will regularly check their understanding of the story throughout the book. Further information will follow from the English department.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via school reception or email (staffczm@westcoventryacademy.org)

Yours sincerely

Miss McLaughlin

Lead teacher for Literacy