



11 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Reading opens up a world of learning to young people, and at Heanor Gate Spencer Academy, we see reading as the foundation of academic success. As a school we are committed to providing your child with every opportunity to read; we will ensure that all of our students can read, that they have access to books to read, and that they *do* read. As a school, we will work tirelessly to help your child develop the skills needed to become confident, independent readers, regardless of their starting point, and we also understand that many students joining Year 7 are already very able, enthusiastic and passionate readers. It is also our ambition to ensure that this enthusiasm and passion is nurtured and continues throughout their time with us at Heanor Gate. Our mission therefore is simple: irrespective of ability, every child reads.

Parents and carers have a crucial role in our reading strategy and in particular, helping your child become a better and regular reader. Young people who read at home, learn better. Unfortunately, and for many reasons, the transition to secondary school often signals an end to children routinely reading and this is where we ask for your support. We need you to continue the promotion of reading at home.

As a signal of our intent to strengthen our reading culture, we have pledged to purchase each child a book of their choice. Following the transition days, your child will have returned home with information about the selection of books we are able to offer.

There has been an electronic form uploaded to their Google Classroom that will need to be completed by **Friday 15 July**; this will automatically be returned to us.

If your child has not decided on their book yet, we have also uploaded brief summaries to help guide their choice. Further to this, we will upload recorded read-alongs over summer for your child to listen to, should they wish to do so.

Finally, each child should have returned with a bookmark that represents our summer reading challenge. Please promote this as much as possible within the home: have conversations about reading, remind your child of just how important reading is, not only now, but for the rest of their life.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

HGSA English Department