



High Tunstall College of Science

Inspire | Support | Achieve



Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to inform you about some exciting updates to our literacy programme. Developing the literacy skills of all our students is really important, especially after some of the disruption caused by the pandemic. We are determined to support every single student in all aspects of literacy and to ensure that they can achieve their potential in the subjects they study as they prepare for life after High Tunstall.

This term we have begun a weekly 30-minute Form time session dedicated to reading. During the Covid pandemic, we have been regularly encouraging our students to read for pleasure as well as for academic purposes through the use of Accelerated Reader and MyOn. To help raise the importance of reading and to provide more opportunities for this during the school day, we have invested in sets of new books for use in Form time. Students will now read each week from a selection of carefully chosen stories from different time periods, cultures and traditions. Details of these books can be found below, you will notice that this programme encompasses all key stage 3 students:

Year 7

- Crongton Knights by Alex Wheatle
- Ruby and the Smoke by Phillip Pullman
- Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundall
- Mortal Engines by Phillip Reeve
- Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by Chris Priestley
- The World's Worst Teachers by David Walliams

Year 8

- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend
- Norse Mythology by Neil Galman
- A Short History of Everything by Bill Bryson
- Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
- Mythos by Stephen Fry
- The Lie Tree by Francis Hardinge
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Year 9

- The Hate you Give by Angie Thomas
- One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus
- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

As well as providing our students with an opportunity to experience some of the best fiction and non-fiction written, the form time reading programme is also designed to support the curriculum, drawing links to ideas, themes and topics studied in lessons.

In addition to this, after Christmas we will be using one hour per fortnight of English curriculum time to reshape our current Accelerated Reader programme in to a bespoke reading intervention programme. Using recent data and in collaboration with our feeder primary schools, we have

created a fully differentiated programme that supports all of our students, from the non-readers to the fully fluent, in developing their reading skills. Our updated homework policy also asks parents/carers to support their children by encouraging at least 20 minutes per day of independent reading.

Alongside our reading intervention programme, we are beginning to trial a whole school spelling and reciprocal reading strategy. In addition to promoting 'Spelling Punctuation & Grammar', the spelling strategy continue to support students' understanding of the important vocabulary that they will meet in all their subjects and to develop independent spelling skills. Vocabulary is key to unlocking the curriculum and helps students to build formal verbal and written responses. To further support the development of vocabulary, students will study a word of the week with each of their subject teachers.

Please make time to visit our website for details of literacy strategies throughout the coming year, you will find these under the curriculum tab in the reading section. Here you will find suggested reading lists for both adults and teens which will be updated half termly, starting with suggested Christmas reads that will benefit all. We will communicate with you regularly, at least termly, as our literacy strategy continues to develop.

Yours faithfully

L Reavley

Mrs L Reavley
Assistant Headteacher Curriculum and Timetabling