

Reading at Penwortham Priory

Reading is at the core of the English curriculum. Our curriculum embeds the use of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts throughout the five years that pupils are at Penwortham Priory. Each termly unit of study at Key Stage 3 has an 'umbrella' text which will be read with the guidance of the class teacher. Each text has been chosen for its quality, challenge and proximity to our 'Big Questions and Big Ideas'.

In addition to these specified texts, pupils will be provided with suggested reading each term that has links to the unit being studied. This will go along a more general suggested reading list for each year group.

In Year 7, pupils will receive lessons that help induct them into the library and familiarise them with our stock. The aim is to establish that independent reading is an expectation of all pupils and encourage pupils to engage in reading for pleasure. This will run alongside initial 'Faster Reading' lessons where pupils will spend lessons reading a novel with staff and discussing their predictions, thoughts and ideas about plot and character. This will help establish regular dialogue about reading habits and build a positive rapport around reading between teachers and pupils. This will then be replicated in their dedicated 'Everybody Reading' time with their form tutors. At Key Stage 3, pupils will have access to the library on a rota basis during their 'Reading Plus' lessons to continue to encourage use of the library throughout their time at Penwortham Priory.

The 'Reading Plus' programme is the focus of 'Reading Plus' lessons for one hour per week and is a diagnostic programme which supports the progress of each individual pupils targeting their specific areas of need. While this programme provides benefits within the allotted time, it works best when it is engaged with frequently and this can be done using their login from any computer or mobile device. It is a useful tool to engage with wider reading and the choice of texts allows pupils to read according to their interests and preferences.

At Key Stage 4, pupils are also provided with suggested reading lists as well as opportunities to engage with wider academic reading linked to their studies. At the end of Year 10 we aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to engage with a range of short stories to develop their reading for pleasure opportunities. While Year 10 will continue to engage with 'Everybody Reading' through novels in their form groups, Year 11 will be provided with an hour a week where they can engage with selected short stories as well as topical non-fiction texts to help develop their understanding of the wider world.

Within lessons the department reinforces the use of "active reading" whereby pupils are encouraged to identify unfamiliar vocabulary and use strategies that will help them to locate information needed. We also use the 'ARC' approach to reading which ensures that staff allow pupils to 'Activate' prior knowledge before approaching a new text; 'Read' with guidance from the teacher; and 'Comprehend', engage in a range of tasks which ensure that they understand what they have read. It is also policy that pupils are exposed to a text with which they need to meaningfully engage a minimum of three times.