

14<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent/Career

As an Academy, we feel that reading is fundamental in all subjects. Research has shown that disruptive behaviour has (in many cases, not all) been a result of students not being able to follow along in lessons due to their reading age.

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

This term, staff have assessed pupil progress in regards to reading levels and behaviour in all subjects. This has provided us with exact information that some pupils are below their expected learning age for reading.

To help pupils achieve their expected reading age, we have introduced Read Write Inc, a reading program designed to teach children how to read. This programme is used throughout schools and has a proven record of supporting progress in reading.

Therefore, English lessons will focus on the Read Write Inc approach four times a week using the phonics programme. Tutor groups will be set according to KS3 levels, guided by our assessments. Once learners have successfully completed the phonics program, they will return to National Curriculum English lessons supported with one-to-one Fresh Start interventions (the next part of the Read Write Inc programme) to allow them to continue to develop confidence in their reading.

What *Read Write Inc.* does is simple - we teach sounds, children practice reading and spelling words containing these sounds (phonics), then we give children decodable books containing sounds and words they can read.

They read each Storybook three times at school and again with you at home.

On each reading, children's fluency increases and they can focus more on what the story is about.

Children also learn to spell the words they have been reading and develop their ideas into sentences so that they can write about the Storybooks they read.

Alongside this we read stories to children: stories they cannot yet read for themselves.

Our aim is for children to finish the RWI Phonics program quickly so they can start reading these books for themselves and return to an English scheme of work recommended for their age.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CG', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Charmainé Grier BA hons  
English Lead