



TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr. S. Day

Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents,

Reading Aloud Project

I have spoken to all of our students in assembly this week regarding the move to the new building after Easter. As part of this assembly I have spoken about a change we are making to our curriculum offer which we are certain will have a positive impact on all of our students. This change aims to put reading, specifically 'reading for pleasure', at the heart of our practice in school.

As I am sure you are aware, reading is already an essential part of your son/daughter's learning, and we take every step to ensure that this is a key focus of our curriculum here at Tarleton Academy. We have previously written to you to outline the steps we had taken in our ongoing development of our reading culture. We have placed reading at the forefront of students' learning in every lesson, providing opportunities for wider reading so that your child receives a consistent, high-quality diet of reading across our curriculum. We firmly believe that all teachers are teachers of reading, not just their subject. Since September, we have been embedding six core strategies across school in order to raise the profile of reading for our students and enhance those essential literacy skills. Our approach centres on ensuring we provide opportunities in all lessons for explicit and rigorous vocabulary teaching, independent reading, oracy and writing skills.

A vast amount of research has been completed looking at the importance of reading in developing confident individuals who can fully access their learning both in school and beyond. Reading is proven to aid cognitive development – how children think, learn and figure things out. A recent Institute of Education study revealed that students who read at home do 'significantly better' across the curriculum – including 9.9% better in Maths – than students who don't read. Linked to this is the fact that reading is the best way to improve vocabulary, essential for success in every subject.

Research has also identified that reading for pleasure is one of the most effective ways to improve a child's literacy and language skills. When children read for pleasure, they are more likely to read more often and for longer periods of time. This extended exposure to language helps to increase vocabulary, improve reading comprehension and fluency, and ultimately build a stronger foundation for academic success. In addition to academic benefits, reading for pleasure can also help to promote empathy, creativity and critical thinking skills. When your child reads for pleasure, they are transported to new worlds and introduced to new characters and situations. This exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences can help your child to become more empathetic and understanding of others.

In support of this we are delighted to announce that when we return to school after Easter, we will be introducing the Reading Aloud Project into our curriculum. This will involve all students in school* taking part in a 20-minute reading aloud session each day. This session will involve students in Year based reading groups attending a daily session with their Reading Tutor, where they will have a novel



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read to them. There will be a copy of the novel for each student in the room so that they can follow along. Students will not be required to read aloud. Our English department have carefully selected a range of age-appropriate novels which we are confident our students will enjoy and we have secured funding to purchase whole class sets of each book.

*Please note, at this late stage we will not be involving our Year 11 students in the Reading Aloud Project. They will use the time for independent GCSE examination preparation.

To accommodate the read aloud sessions into our curriculum we will be making minor modifications to our school day:

Lesson 1 - 8:50 to 9:45
Lesson 2 - 9:45 to 10:40
Reading session - 10:40 to 11:00
Break - 11:00 to 11:20
Lesson 3 - 11:20 to 12:15
Lesson 4 - 12:15 to 13:10
Lunch - 13:10 to 13:50
Tutor time – 13:50 to 14:15
Lesson 5 – 14:15-15:15

To further support the development of reading for pleasure, we are looking forward to moving our existing school library into our new Learning Resource Centre. The new LRC is substantially bigger than our current provision but unfortunately the move to the new build does not include provision for the books we need to fill the shelves.

Following conversations with a number of students, they have asked if it would be possible to raise money towards the purchase of new books for the LRC through donations made by having a school non-uniform day. After consideration we have agreed for the non-uniform day to take place on **Thursday 30th March 2023**. Pupils who wish to attend school in their 'home clothes' on this day may do so with a discretionary donation of **£1**, payable via school gateway (available from Monday). Please note that students who attend school in their 'home clothes' on this day should wear clothing suitable for school i.e., no inappropriately revealing clothing. Please also note that the school make-up (including rules on nail polish and false nails) and jewellery rules will still apply. Should student clothing choices not meet these criteria, appropriate sanctions will be put in place.

During the day all lessons will continue as normal, and all money donated will go towards the purchase of books for our new library.



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We are very excited to finally be able to launch the Reading Aloud Project and would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to develop our reading curriculum in school.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Day
Headteacher