

13.11.23



Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 7, 8 and 9 Paired Reading with 6th Form Reading Mentors 2023-24

At Lymm High School we are committed to our policy of “every student a reader”. Reading proves the master skill of school, and has the greatest direct impact on academic achievement.

The **benefits of reading** proficiency are numerous:

- Students who read know 26% more words than those who do not, and a broad vocabulary makes acquiring new knowledge and making connections easier
- There is a positive correlation between reading ability and achievement in all subjects – and this correlation is actually greater in Maths than in English or Humanities subjects
- Students who can read well report higher self-esteem, and are less likely to report feelings of depression or anxiety.

Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, an increasing number of students nationwide are reading below age related expectations. As well as increasing the amount of direct literacy, reading and vocabulary teaching in lessons, we have also designed some supportive interventions to help students progress in reading.

Students have recently completed reading age testing using the **New Group Reading Test** to enable us to identify those who may benefit from support. Your child has been identified as one of these pupils. This means they are reading *slightly* below age-related expectations, and while this is not a cause for alarm or concern at this stage, they have been selected for some additional reading practice to ensure they are able to make progress.

Your child has been selected for our ‘Paired Reading’ Programme run by our 6th form reading mentors. If your child has previously been involved in this programme, please don’t worry. Our data shows they *are* making good progress, but would benefit from continued intervention this year.

The programme is designed to support students in selecting, reading and discussing fiction, and mentors have been trained in understanding how best to support these skills in a 1:1 context. Shared and guided reading has a positive impact on comprehension and reading ability, particularly with a positive reading role model who can model fluent reading and support student understanding.

Each identified student has been matched with a 6th form reading mentor, with whom they will meet during one form time once per week in the Library. **Sessions will begin w/c 20th November**, and will run until the end of the school year. **Year 7 sessions will take place on Mondays; Year 8 and 9 sessions will take place on Fridays.** Students will also be issued with an invite so they know on which day their sessions will take place.

Thank you for your support in promoting the importance of reading with your child. *If you would like further guidance on what you can do to help at home, more details can be found overleaf.*

Kind regards,

Ms S. Mulholland – Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning/Literacy

Easy steps to become a reader...



1. **Get to the Library!** (Use our ILC or your free school log in to the SORA app if you prefer to read on an e-reader – Kindle – or tablet). Use www.Lovereading4kids.co.uk for inspiration if you don't know what to read



2. **Give it 2 chapters...** if it's not for you, try something else!



3. **Set a timer:** Whether you want to read for 10 minutes or 30 minutes, it will stop you getting distracted and allow you to fully immerse yourself.



4. **Put your phone out of the way,** so you're not distracted by social media



5. **Remember all reading is valuable** – news articles, factual books, magazines, autobiographies, interviews. Use an e-reader or a tablet if you prefer this technology.

How can I help my child become a reader? Key advice for parents:

- ✓ **Turn on the subtitles at home** – your child will read thousands more words a day, while watching TV or streaming services (without even realising it!)
- ✓ **Incentivise reading**– start small and achievable. E.g. 3x 10 minute sessions a week is better than nothing at all. Reward and praise for reading.
- ✓ **Use a timer to keep them focused and place phones in another room**
- ✓ **Track the habit and encourage them to keep it up.** Make it part of the daily or weekly routine. The key to success is to increase your child's "reading miles", leading to fluency.
- ✓ **Promote 'Technology off' time** – Encourage your child to have the final hour of the day technology free, and use reading to wind down. *"You don't need to go to sleep yet as long as you're reading..."*
- ✓ **Read yourself!** Be a model of reading. Make it part of your routine, and demonstrate its power for relaxation, entertainment and joy!
- ✓ **Talk about books** – Share favourites from childhood, movies that come from books, favourite characters or books read at school
- ✓ **Remember all reading is good reading** – use non-fiction or magazines, use autobiographies, fact files, books about topics they are interested in (*space, football, rugby, music...*) if your child struggles with choosing and sustaining interest in fiction.
- ✓ **Download the SORA app to read online** – this is free via the school's subscription. Details [here](#)
- ✓ **Use a book combined with an audiobook** – following the words is a great way of hearing fluent reading and gaining fluency, speed and sight reading skills
- ✓ **Give books as presents**
- ✓ **Visit the local library together**
- ✓ **Have a family bookshelf**
- ✓ **Keep reading together** – no matter how old they are, shared reading makes a huge difference.
- ✓ **Don't panic if your child reads the same book or collection over and over again**