

December 2024

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of this term, I am delighted to write to you and provide an update on our whole school reading strategy.

Reg and Read

In September, to further develop the progress students are making in their reading ability, we launched our bespoke reading for pleasure curriculum. Your children have begun a dedicated reading session each afternoon on their timetable known as 'Reg and Read'; we take the register, and we read. Through an academic year, each form group will read a minimum of 4 books. We have carefully selected a range of fiction and non-fiction to engage and broaden all students' access to literature. The benefits of reading for pleasure are well documented and rooted firmly in academic research. In promoting a reading for pleasure curriculum, we aim to continue to increase vocabulary acquisition; model fluent reading; develop comprehension skills and promote oracy through discussion questions. Please follow this link to our school website and scroll down to see more detail about the books our students are reading during Reg and Read. [Literacy | Great Academy Ashton \(greatacademies.co.uk\)](https://www.greatacademies.co.uk/literacy)

Our Library

In addition to the Reg and Read curriculum, our school library is ever evolving into a wonderful hub of reading resources and space for our students to participate in targeted reading group intervention sessions, library enrichment activities and to, most importantly, simply enjoy the pleasure of reading in a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space just for them. We encourage all students to visit the library, in writing to you, we ask you to please discuss this with your children and further encourage them to come and borrow a book or take part in an extra-curricular activity. Furthermore, if you are looking for your next book to read, please be encouraged to pop into our school reception and see if there is anything you wish to borrow from our community library. These books are regularly updated and we of course take donations of any books you may have spare.

Academic Vocabulary

We continue this year with the ongoing focus on explicitly teaching academic vocabulary through 'word of the week'. Each week we have an academic word that students hear and see in a variety of contexts. For example, in morning mood and then again in their form time materials and again in posters in classrooms. Students can earn GREAT points for using the word correctly each week. Just some of the words from this term have been: analogy; era; hindrance and ideology. Please do quiz your children; they should know the word and its definition and be able to use it in a sentence.

Thank you once again for your partnership and support in promoting a life long love of reading. We look forward to another term of growth, learning, and success together.

Miss Sharon Lees

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