

## **Reading for Pleasure and Progress at The Charter School East Dulwich**

### **Why is reading important?**

1. Reading leads to academic success.
  - Good reading habits are a more important indicator of success than the socio-economic or educational status of parents (OECD/PISA, 2009).
  - Reading for pleasure aids cognitive development and impacts achievement in all curriculum areas. For example, regular readers do 10% better in their Maths GCSEs (IoE, London, 2013).
2. Reading improves your confidence and helps you to feel better.
  - Reading helps young people to understand and deal with complex issues from the safe fictional environment of a book.
  - Research shows that young people who read are more empathetic than their non-reading peers (APA, 2013).
  - Interested? Take a look at our reading list of 'books that deal with complex issues', which can be found in the 'Reading at TCSED' section of the School website.
3. Reading is enjoyable and relaxing.
  - Reading opens up new worlds and widens horizons, providing an escape from the stress of day-to-day life.

### **What do we do at The Charter School East Dulwich to inspire, encourage and (sometimes) push students to read?**

1. Booklists for a whole range of ages and interests can be found in the 'Reading at TCSED' section of the school website.
2. An online borrowing service to enable students to use the library in a safe way.
3. Dedicated silent reading time every morning for students in Years 7 and 8.
4. All students in Years 7 and 8 are signed up to Bookbuzz, which enables them to choose a book they get to keep.
5. All students in Years 7 and 8 use Accelerated Reader, which enables us to keep track of how much students are reading and celebrate students who are making the most progress in reading.
6. Regular author visits for Key Stage Three to generate enthusiasm and excitement for reading.
7. Regular competitions and celebrations for events such as World Book Day and National Poetry Week.

## What do we do at The Charter School East Dulwich to address barriers to reading?

1. Regular reading age tests for all students, enabling us to quickly identify students who might need help.
2. Years 7 and 8 have fortnightly 'library lessons' which support progress in reading.
3. Small group support for struggling readers, which could involve a range of specialist programmes from the SEN department.

## So you have a reluctant reader...

Here are the English Department's top tips for encouraging reluctant readers:

1. **Mr Reynolds says...** Find books with a connection to something they love. If they are football fans, look for footie fiction for teens – try *Booked* by Kwame Alexander; *Football School Star Players* by Bellos; or Dan Freedman or Tom Palmer's books. If they like military/action/war, then try the *Dog Tag* series by CA London or Andy McNab's teen books.
2. **Mr Surridge says...** Any type of reading is helpful, so try graphic novels. Graphic novel versions of *The Recruit* by Muchamore, *Silverfin* by Higson and *Stormbreaker* by Horowitz are popular.
3. **Ms Coates says...** Try Barrington Stoke books. These are produced with tinted pages, special fonts and spacing, thicker paper and editing to reduce comprehension barriers and/or issues resulting from dyslexia. <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>
4. **Ms Craven says...** Try audiobooks. Libraries have free, downloadable audio books and Audible has a wide range of teen books. Many teens like the idea of being able to do something active while listening to a book. By listening to an audiobook, your teen will pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentence structures and engage with stories. Listening to audiobooks as a family is another good idea!
5. **Ms Bignell says...** Another idea is to find the book version of a movie: *Stormbreaker*, *Eragon*, *Harry Potter*, *The Book Thief*, *I am Number Four*, *The Princess Diaries*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Percy Jackson*, *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *Maze Runner*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Twilight*, *Inkheart* and *Wonder* are all films based on children and young adult books. Both of you could read the book, watch the film together, and then discuss the differences.