



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

## **Why is reading important?**

### **Reading at St.Paul's:**

At St.Paul's we value the skills of reading highly. We endeavour to support all students to be able to enjoy reading new and exciting texts across subjects and genres. Our whole educational philosophy behind reading is that we believe every child should have the opportunity to become a confident reader of unseen text and to develop a love of reading for pleasure. Parents have a particularly important role to play in supporting their child to become more confident readers.

This document has some ideas of how you as a parent/carer might be able to support your child to become a more confident reader:

## **How can I encourage my teenager to read?**

### **Hints and tips to support your child to develop their reading.**

#### **How can I be a good role model?**

A great way to be a reading role model is to discuss books with your child and show them that reading is an important part of your life. You could give them a copy of your favourite book when you were their age, or read the same book so you can talk about it together.

#### **My child is in secondary school – bedtime stories are a thing of the past. What could I do instead?**

Instead of watching TV together in the evenings, perhaps you could try having family reading time together. Even reading for just 10 minutes a day can make a difference. Plus, reading can have a calming effect and can help everyone at home to relax and unwind.

#### **My child is so focused on their phone or tablet; I'll never tear them away to read a book! What should I do?**

If you can't lose it – use it! Technology can help to excite young readers who aren't attracted to paper books. As well as e-readers, most modern phones and tablets have free apps for reading, and there are lots of free and cheap e-books available online. They might also be interested in listening to free audio books and podcasts, which might help them to catch the reading bug.

#### **I really want my child to read, but books are so expensive!**

The library is the place for you! They have a wide variety of books to borrow and membership is free. Sign your teenager up for their own library card and encourage them to choose books to take home that they're interested in. You could visit the library as part of your weekend routine when shopping in town. Remember our school library too, if you can't find a particular book you would like to read, please ask the librarians who will order one for you.

**My child hates reading novels and stories – I'll never get them to read.**

Reading doesn't just mean fiction; reading is reading – it all counts. Your child may prefer reading newspapers, magazines, graphic novels, non-fiction books, plays, recipes, travel guides or poetry. Talk to your child about the different kinds of reading that they might enjoy.

**How can I get my child interested in books in the first place?**

Use their hobbies as hooks! By encouraging your child to read things that interest them, you will help them to fall in love with reading. A great place to start is by pointing out books and articles that feature their favourite sports teams, bands, hobbies or films. You could also ask your librarian to recommend books on a certain topic.

**Are there any lists of good books for older children out there?**

Absolutely! Please see our recommended reads for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 – these can be found on our school website. They are a selection of books that we would recommend for students to explore. There is also a brochure of recommended reads for your child to explore if they are a Sixth Form student. These books have been recommended by Heads of Department across the school to support your child to develop their wider reading across their chosen subject areas.