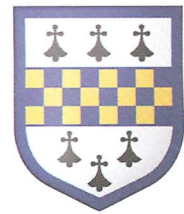


TCL/ACH/WH

27 February 2015



**PARK HALL**  
A C A D E M Y

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## Reading – Success for your Child

Dear Parent/Carer

Park Hall Academy is committed to helping your child achieve their full potential. Research into educational achievement clearly shows that a reading child is a successful child. Reading regularly will help your child to improve their chances of GCSE success in many ways. I am writing to ask for your support in making sure that your child is a reader.

Reading helps to improve vocabulary and writing, concentration and spelling. In addition, reading opens minds to world cultures and allows your child to develop a full and active imagination. These skills are essential for success in all GCSE subject areas. Research has found that children who do not read are more likely to underachieve in school and struggle academically. Reading for pleasure is an important and valid pastime and I would encourage you to support your child as much as possible to read regularly.

Your child will read whole books in their English lessons but the school day does not allow enough time for reading for pleasure. Please encourage your child to read at home every night, for at least 20 minutes. Discussing what your child has read will help them to consolidate their understanding and ensure that they are developing a deeper knowledge of what they are reading.

To support you at home with this important activity, please find enclosed a list of recommended books which you may wish to read alongside your child. These books cover a range of different genres and styles, including fiction and non-fiction. Reading newspapers and magazine articles is important, as well as the reading of fiction. I am sure that you will find suitable books on this list which will interest your child. To assist your discussions about any of these books, please also find enclosed a list of questions which you can ask your child about what they have read. These questions can apply to any of the books, indeed any book at all.

The books are available to buy online or in most bookshops. They are also available from the school library and your local library.

Reading regularly has the power to improve your child's chances of educational success. We are keen to develop a love of books and reading in our students, and with your support, believe this is achievable. If you would like any further support regarding book choices or how to encourage your child to read, please contact the academy and speak to their English teacher.

Yours faithfully

*Miss A. Chorley*

Miss A Chorley  
Head of English



### **What is my child reading? Questions to support discussion...**

- What is the book about?
- Who are the main characters?
- What has just happened?
- What do you think will happen next and why?
- Do you like the book? Why? Why not?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What have you learnt from reading this book so far?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? Why not?
- How does the writer try to make the book interesting for the reader?
- Who wrote the book? Have they written anything else you would like to read?
- Can you summarise what has happened in the book so far?
- How is a particular character feeling and what are they thinking?