



Alderman Peel High School

Alderman Peel High School
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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: The importance of reading at APHS

This year at APHS we are reinforcing the importance we have always placed on reading. We feel so passionately about it that we have changed the timings of the school day in order to create more time for it. This letter seeks to explain why we are doing this and how it will work.

Each day since the start of term, all students have been undertaking 15 minutes of silent reading immediately after lunch (12:55 – 1:10pm). Students are therefore required to bring something to read, such as a fiction or non-fiction book, magazine or newspaper each day as part of their required equipment.

The students have been outstanding during this time, so dedicated reading time will happen every day until further notice.

This strategy does not need to cost any money as all students have access to the full library of books available in our Learning Resource Centre (LRC). Students are encouraged to borrow books from the school or local library and review their choice of reading material in their school planner.

There is a large body of evidence to show that students' reading ability directly relates to how well they will achieve in school. Students who read regularly go on to achieve well in their exams and in later life.

Reading in your own time, otherwise known as 'reading for pleasure', has also been shown to improve reading ages; vocabulary; text comprehension; grammar; overall educational progress and personal development.

The increase in screen-time and social media has been shown to have decreased focus and concentration levels as people are so used to flicking between apps and scrolling through various websites. Reading can help counter this by providing one thing to focus on.

While the evidence is very clear and scientific, we believe reading does much more than that. It stimulates imagination and creativity as readers are transported to a new world by the power of a good book. It is also true these benefits are the same, regardless of whether their reading material of choice is a novel or magazine.

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they are reading as we know that students read less as they get older and need further encouragement. Parental involvement in school matters has been shown to add as much as 6 months progress to student attainment, so thank you for your support in advance.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hardman
Vice Principal

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