

19 September 2024



**Smestow Academy**  
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

### **The importance of reading and its connection to academic success.**

The survey of 71,400 children and young people by the National Literacy Trust early in 2023 has revealed that fewer than one in three children (28%) aged eight to 18 read daily for enjoyment. The figure stood at 38% in 2005.

### **Why is reading for pleasure vital?**

If a pupil reads for 20 minutes a day consistently, they will, on average, read 1,800,000 words per year which will put them in the top 10% for outcomes in tests. In contrast, a pupil who reads for one minute per day will read approximately 8,000 words per year which scores them in the bottom 10% for outcomes in tests.

There is a growing body of evidence that illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both education purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006) as shown in the attached leaflet.

### **How we encourage reading at school**

- Form tutor reading programme whereby pupils are read to on a weekly basis (both fiction and non-fiction) with their form teacher and members of sixth form.
- Accelerated reader programme timetabled into English lessons every week
- Fresh start phonics and Lexia based reading interventions for pupils who require additional reading support.
- A fantastic library where pupils can spend some of their free time after school, using and accessing a variety of texts and genres. The library will be open for:
  - **Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) on Mondays and Thursdays**
  - **Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) on Tuesdays and Fridays**
  - **The library is closed to all pupils on Wednesday**

The library will be open the following times:

- **Before registration: 8.10am - 8.30am**
- **Break time: 11.10am -11.30am**
- **After school: 3pm - 3.30pm**



Smestow Academy  
Windmill Crescent  
Castlecroft  
Wolverhampton  
WV3 8HU  
West Midlands



**Matrix**  
**Academy Trust**  
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

01902 539500

Smestow Academy

smestowacademy

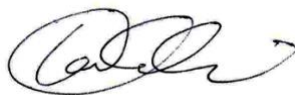


### How to encourage reading at home


- Having books that a child owns
- Using the library (at school and locally) to build variety
- Exposing children to texts beyond novel e.g. comics, Manga, magazines, non-fiction books
  
- Taking control of screens – reading first and then screen time
- Shown that you love reading
- Give children books that matter to them e.g. BAME authors

Please find attached leaflets which provide more information on the great importance of reading.

Yours faithfully



**Mr I Chamberlain**  
Headteacher



**Ms D Ellison**  
Assistant Headteacher

