

22 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading for pleasure is a superpower

I hope this letter reaches you and your family in good health and that you are ready for the half-term break.

Over the last few years, research has demonstrated that students reading for pleasure has a significant impact on their life chances. There are so many benefits for just having fun. It's like the magic bullet that will deliver so much for your son/daughter. A few of these would include:

- enhanced emotional intelligence;
- better creativity and imagination;
- high self-esteem;
- enhanced communication skills;
- enhanced writing ability;
- enhanced comprehension and grammar;
- happiness and fulfilment in life.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, once said "Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true." These sentiments have been repeated the world over, in all cultures, and in all generations.

We want to build a new partnership with you to help your son/daughter immerse themselves in this free superpower that could change your son's/daughter's life forever - in ways yet to be discovered.

Here are some examples of what we will be doing:

- Opening a new library in the Academy;
- Asking all students about their interests and seeing how we can immerse these interests with words. Words that will take them on journeys they are yet to discover;
- Helping our students to review books so you and your son/daughter can listen to the words of their fellow students, their journey and what they thought of a book. You could be proudly listening to a review written by your son/daughter;
- Building a positive reading culture in the school where this becomes the norm;
- Installing new online software that will allow you and your son/daughter reserve books in the comfort of your home to be collected the next day at school;
- Working with general literacy in tutor time;

- Teachers using new techniques in handling academic words – known as disciplinary literacy – to help our students enhance further their preparation for exams and their future life.

These are only but a few of the changes we will be making in the Academy. But we need your help. We cannot make these changes without your partnership.

We need books - we need your help

We need books. We are hoping there are books in your homes that have been loved and are now ready to provide their magic superpower to other students in our Academy. We would use these books to help stock our library so they can be loaned to other students to escape to a new world. If you can help, please ask your son/daughter to bring in the book(s) to your tutor and know we will be very grateful. Even better, know you can help change the life of a student. I can remember when books were donated to my school in the black and white days. That is where I fell in love with reading sci-fi and never looked back. It changed my life forever.

Homework – we need your help

We need your help with a piece of homework we will publish after the half term. Please can you work with your son/daughter in completing this homework about their interests and what they might like to read? If your son/daughter is already an avid reader, we will want to access his/her skills to help build our new vision.

I want to thank you in advance for your partnership to help with the changes we will be making in the Academy. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Academy or email me at DKelly@stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Kelly
Deputy Headteacher