

8th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: The Bourne Academy Reading Strategy 2024-25

I am writing to share details of our Academy Reading Strategy with you and share information about how you can help your child improve their reading.

[Academic research](#) over many years has shown that there is a very strong link between a child’s reading and their educational (GCSE) outcomes. The Department for Education also sets out very clearly the importance of reading for students of all ages in its [Reading Framework](#).

The key strands of our Reading Strategy for students are:

Annual Reading Testing	Each year, students’ reading age is tested to ensure that we can identify where students need additional support. Please encourage your child to do their best in their reading assessments
Tutor Time Reading Programme	Three mornings every week as part of their tutor time, students in Years 7 – 10 take part in the tutor reading programme. Across the course of an academic year, students will read four or five complete novels. The aim is to develop a love of stories and an appreciation of other cultures, as well as extending comprehension, tracking and vocabulary skills.
Drop Everything and Read-Y7 & 8 (DEAR)	Every Thursday afternoon, students in Year 7 & 8 read silently for 30 minutes with a book of their choice. Their teacher also reads silently to model good reading habits.
Bedrock Vocab	The English Department set 40 minutes of homework weekly on Bedrock Vocab, an online system to support students extending their vocabulary.
Reading Interventions	For students who need additional support, we run two key programmes: Lexonik Leap & Lexonik Advance. We will contact you with more details if we feel your child needs additional reading support.
Subject vocabulary	We help students understand the vocabulary across their subjects in several ways: their Knowledge Organiser, the Bedrock Vocab system and also Lexonik Cloud, an online vocabulary system.
Carnegie Shadowing Award	Later this year, students in Year 9 will be able to take part in shadowing the Carnegie Award. Run in partnership with Canford School, this is a great project for students with a desire to take their love of reading to new heights.




You can help by:

- Modelling reading in the home and talking about reading with your child
- Making sure your child brings an appropriate DEAR book in every week (Year 7 & 8)
- Encouraging your child to work hard in any reading interventions that they are offered
- Reminding your child to work hard in the Reading Assessments.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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In an ever-increasing digital world, it is important that students have good reading skills so that they can evaluate the huge amount of information available to them and consider its quality. Being able to enjoy a good book is also a lifelong skill students need to help them think, dream and grow as young people.

I will be writing again shortly to several of you regarding reading assessments and interventions but wanted to contact you all at the start of the academic year and ask for your support in this important regard.



Yours sincerely

Mr J Cornish
Director of Inclusion

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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