



Supporting Reading: A guide for parents

“Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labelled ‘This could change your life’.”

Helen Exley

Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history. They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens and conduct their personal lives. They will need literacy to cope with the flood of information they will find everywhere they turn. They will need literacy to feed their imaginations so they can create the world of the future. In a complex and sometimes even dangerous world, their ability to read can be crucial.



As your child moves to secondary education they will need to develop a range of literacy skills. Here at Belfairs Academy, we like to encourage our students to be independent learners and to carry on learning outside of the classroom.

This booklet aims to provide some ideas for encouraging your child to read at home. There are practical suggestions for reading materials and some top tips for encouraging your child to read. **Please encourage your child to use the academy LRC.**

Practical ideas for reading materials:

- Stories and narrative accounts. For example, fairy tales, folk tales and biographies.
- Picture books with thought-provoking images and examples of artistic talent, Information books.
- Miscellaneous reading materials, such as popular magazines, newspapers, catalogues, recipe books, encyclopaedias, maps, reports.
- Captioned photographs, posters, diaries and letters, joke books, comic books, word-puzzle books; and student-authored books and stories.

Ten ideas to encourage your child to read for pleasure

1

Encourage your child to join their local library. They stock music CD's and a range of DVDs. Even if they just go there to borrow these to begin with, they might find a book catches their eye in the process! Our Academy **Learning Resource Centre is also open before & after academy day, break & lunchtimes.**

2

Give them the freedom to choose what to read. They are far more likely to read if they make their own choices.

3

Encourage them to read magazines, newspapers and the internet as well as books. All of these play a role in developing reading.

4

Discuss what they don't like about the books they read, as well as what they enjoy.

5

Make time to read together if you can. You could read the sports pages at the back of the paper together or read through some of the quizzes in their magazines

6

Buy books as presents. There are lots of TV tie-ins available. Try looking for these as well as books about their interests such as computer games or bands.

7

Try to get them to read as often as possible for practical purposes

- Perhaps they could read a recipe out loud to you, or instructions for you to follow to make something.
- You could try getting them to read what's on TV that night to you and then choose what to watch together.
- Or try asking them to 'look up' question on Google for you and read the answer.

8

Look up audio CD's and MP3 versions of popular books that they can listen to on their I-pods. Listening alone can help to build vocabulary and if they follow in the book as they read it will help them tackle more difficult words.

9

Many great teenage books have been adapted into film. These could be found and used as a reward for finishing the book.

10

Graphic novels are becoming more popular and are a good stepping stone between magazines and novels.

Some helpful websites

Love Reading for kids Expertly selected books for 11, 12 & 13 yr. olds. <http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/genre/12/11-plus-readers.html>

Riveting Reads Boys into Books, lists for Key Stages 1-4 are available to download from <http://www.sla.org.uk/riveting-reads.php>

Books and Boys acts as a portal to a range of boy-related reading lists, reviews and articles <http://booksandboys.blogspot.com/>

Hogwarts Live offers an online role playing game for fans of Harry Potter (Key Stage 2+): <http://hogwartslive.wizards.pro/>

Jacqueline Wilson website enables students to access Jacqueline's diary, send e-cards, play games, write or read reviews and write their own very private diary <http://www.kidsatrandomhouse.co.uk/jacquelinewilson/>

Book Buzz is designed to encourage Year 7 pupils to read for pleasure. Visit 'Your Space' to review books, play games, enter competitions and see what celebrities are reading. <http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/>

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