



ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL



SKILLS NEWSLETTER

Our New Learning Resource Centre!



The recent reopening of our Learning Resource Centre means that students will now have another place to conduct research, discover books and complete homework.

All classes at Year 7 and 8 will each have 1 library lesson every two weeks. Year 7 are currently reading "The Explorer" whilst Year 8 are enjoying "Animal Farm".

We have also purchased a range of board games for learners to use after school too! Come along to battle your friends with a game of scrabble, chess or the Rubik's cube.

Open 2.30pm - 3.00pm each day.

What are the benefits of reading for pleasure?

Reading is a vital skill in life. However, it can also be something that is hugely enjoyable. There are a host of titles and genres available to our students and we want them all to become avid readers. Furthermore, there is a wealth of research that highlights the academic benefit to reading for pleasure.

For instance, reading for pleasure can benefit students socially by enabling them to feel more connected to the wider community and world but can also enable them to develop their relationships by building their sense of empathy.

Additionally, students who read for pleasure make considerably more progress in their spelling, vocabulary acquisition, grammar and comprehension.

At St. Martin's our aim is for students to try and read for 20 minutes a day. By completing this will have the chance to read over a million words!

[LINK: How to help your child find books they enjoy.](#)



Easy ways to support reading



Across the school teachers have been embedding Reciprocal Reading strategies to support students when tackling a text.

This is an effective and straightforward way for you to support your child's reading. It doesn't take any preparation and can be done in an informal way as they are reading a fiction or non-fiction text.

Reading Matters!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and can score in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and can score in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and can score in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

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