



7th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading at Rockwood Academy

As you are aware, children across the country have been affected by the pandemic. One of the key areas has been the progress made in their reading. Having missed crucial time in school, children have missed out on the key milestones in their reading journey. As a result of this, we have many students who have a reading age that is below their chronological age.

At Rockwood, we are working hard to close this gap - between their reading age and chronological age - so that your child can access the curriculum now and in the future.

At Rockwood, we expect **all** our students to read in class. Students read during form time in the morning at least twice a week. As some of this reading is structured, it would make more sense to 'set' the children in their forms according to their reading age, so they are with peers of a similar reading age. This would allow for reading age-appropriate texts during that time. We are currently re-assessing all our students so we can see how their reading age has improved since September, so these form changes will be fully implemented in September 2022. Your child may have mentioned that their form has changed this week, and that is because we have made a few subtle changes this side of the summer to support those who most need it.

As well as reading during form time, teachers are planning their lessons so that there is always an element of reading there. This is to help support students, especially in developing their subject specific vocabulary. Some students will require additional support and the academy have invested in various programmes and academic mentors to deliver them. This includes the Fresh Start programme (phonics) and Lexia for literacy. We are very proud of our library which is fully stocked with the latest books, including plenty of fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels. We encourage students to visit the library and to borrow books to read at home.

To further support at home, all students have a **Reading Plus** account. Students have all logged on and have taken their 'baseline test' in school. Reading Plus is an online library of books, where students have access to age-appropriate books (as decided by their baseline test). Students read the books, and then complete follow-up comprehension questions. We strongly encourage students to be using Reading Plus regularly and we ask you to encourage this also. There is a parent guide to Reading Plus here: [Support for Parents and Students – Reading Plus](#)

By working together, your child will become a better reader, and therefore a better learner.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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