



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
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*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

February 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I am writing to inform you about a new initiative we are introducing in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) after half term. Reading, as I am sure you all appreciate is fundamental to students' academic success. Unless students read enough and are challenged to read appropriate texts, they are unlikely to develop their vocabulary and reading skills to the level required for GCSE examinations across all curriculum areas. This is recognised as an issue both nationally and locally.

Recent studies that focused on reading habits and the impact of reading regularly found that the benefits of reading reach further than academic success. Reading was found to alleviate feelings of anxiety, to increase motivation to learn and develop the social and cultural capital of children and young people.

As such, we are prioritising reading across the school and want to raise the profile and expectation we have of students and their reading. Currently students are expected to routinely read in their English lessons and have dedicated time for this. We wish to expand this approach and ensure that, as a minimum, all students read for at least 20 minutes a day. We are therefore trialling 'Drop Everything And Read' from half term onwards. This means that, through a rolling programme, students will read in at least one lesson every day for 20 minutes. This will amount to 100 minutes a week and over 400 minutes a month (equivalent to well over 6 hours a month).

In order for students to benefit fully from this time, we are asking all KS3 students to ensure they have a reading book with them every day in school. We anticipate students reading for pleasure in these sessions which means they will be reading from a book of their choice. Students are welcome to read fiction or non-fiction texts, but will not be permitted to read on their mobile 'phones. We appreciate your support in this matter and ask that you help ensure your son/daughter gives some thought to their selection of reading material and come prepared for reading at school. The first 'Drop Everything And Read' session will take place on Monday 25th February, and every day thereafter.

Yours faithfully

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