

A NEW YEAR READING MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

I'd like to start by wishing all our parents and pupils a very Happy New Reading Year! To Parents of Year 7 pupils, your sons by now will be well settled and thriving at Borden.

As you know, we take reading for pleasure very seriously and our library is well stocked with over 3,000 fiction books to which we are constantly adding new titles. It is well documented that pupils who enjoy reading have higher overall reading scores and higher scores in sentence completion and passage comprehension compared with their peers who don't enjoy reading. Other benefits to reading for pleasure include: text comprehension and grammar, positive reading attitudes, pleasure in reading in later life, and increased general knowledge.

At Borden our Year 7 and 8 students use the Accelerated Reader programme, and for those parents who are not quite sure what this is, it's basically a reading programme that is custom made for each boy, encouraging reading challenges by setting targets and goals, and accelerating reading ages.

As parents, the home environment is essential to the early teaching of reading and fostering a love of reading. Children are more likely to continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued. Boys who are confident readers spend less time online, and are more motivated by interest and achievement and less by approval. With this in mind, I have included a 'Renaissance Home Connect' letter in your child's AR reading folder, which will allow you to look online at exactly what your son is reading and to track his reading targets. Please take the time to look in the folder, praise and encourage success as we do at school. Boys that read 1,000,000 words (by reading and quizzing books at the correct level) are awarded a Gold Star badge. Boys that reach 'Classic Reader' certification are offered a challenge to become 'Honours Reader' (they must score 100 points by reading teacher chosen texts and scoring 90% or above on quizzes) with a £10 Book Voucher as reward for achieving this amazing task.

Kindest regards

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