

H E D I N G H A M S C H O O L
A N D S I X T H F O R M



TEACHING & LEARNING

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NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

NOVEMBER 2020

This newsletter is released monthly to inform parents of the new teaching strategies implemented to support students learning across the Curriculum

**Welcome to the November
Teaching and Learning Newsletter**

INTRODUCTION

Students have responded positively to Phase One of the catch-up programme. It is evident students have settled back into their learning routines, and adapted to the new safety measures in place. We are proud of the efforts' students have put in across their academic subjects since September. Teachers are continuing to adapt curriculum maps as gaps emerge, providing time to re-visit and consolidate knowledge. The designed programme will continue to address year group priorities when required throughout the academic year. The self-isolation work on Teams will continue to evolve, with work up-dated by subject areas when required.

Recent research into the reading habits of secondary age children has emphasised the positive impact on empathy, creativity and intelligence. The latest Ofsted framework has highlighted the crucial role of reading in enabling children to access the whole school curriculum. Reading extends student vocabulary and increases understanding on subject specific terminology. Therefore, a focus on reading opportunities has been put into place this half term. A reading programme has been designed and implemented to provide students with variety of reading opportunities. We recognise that the time to read is essential for students to build and strengthen their vocabularies across curriculum subjects. The opportunities outlined within this newsletter provide students with the time and ability to access reading materials both within and outside of the school day.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Hedingham School have subscribed to a reading app called SORA, available to all year groups. The reading app provides a gateway to a vast selection of e-books and audio books from various authors and publishers. This includes GCSE literature books such as An Inspector Calls. Internet access is required to download the books, which can then be stored directly on the device to read/listen to at any time. The following link provides an overview of the reading app. The video shows how students can sign in, borrow titles, customise the app and access special features.

resources.overdrive.com/sora-overview

Students can login by using their school username and password. During the virtual assembly on Monday 9th November students were shown how to access the SORA reading app during tutorial time and utilise the different features available. This online app is a great opportunity to access a range of different books free of charge at any time.

LITERACY AND READING SUPPORT

Book challenge groups started running in the Learning Centre on Monday 16th November for Year 7 students and Tuesday 17th November for Year 8 students during tutorial time. This is based on an invite system, and will work on a rotational basis. If students would like to join they can see Mrs Cook to become involved. Students will meet weekly in the Learning Centre to take part in the following activities:

Time to return and select new books to take and read at home

Reading as a group

Discussing and analysing books

Reading individually

Reading one-to-one

The intention is to provide students with time and ability to access the variety of books available in the Learning Centre. The programme will also offer students extra support in reading in a small group, or individually, depending on student preference. It is hoped that this will be opened to other year groups in the near future.

LEARNING CENTRE

During Tutorial Time form groups in **Year 7-10** have been allocated a slot to attend the Learning Centre. This provides students with the opportunity to return, browse and loan books to take home.

Year 11 Students have access to the learning centre everyday after school – 3:15-4:15. This time is allocated to independent study and operates as a drop-in session. Students are also able to utilise the time in the learning centre, accessing the different books available.

Sixth Form students have exclusive access to the Learning Centre during the timetabled school day. They are able to utilise the space for independent study along side the reading materials available.

TUTORIAL TIME

Years 7 – 11 take part in the school DEAR programme (drop everything and read) every Friday during tutorial time. This provides students with allocated time to be able to read for half an hour uninterrupted. Students are encouraged to read a book of their choice and interest. This can be relevant to GCSE revision or be reading for pleasure. Students must bring the book with them each Friday to tutorial time.

IN SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Over the next half term students will be asked to take part in tutorial activities to encourage and provide systems. Activities such as:

Reading Olympics

Write a Review

Create a tutorial reading Wall

These will be both individual and group competitions with time dedicated to them during the tutorial time.

