



Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well.

As an English Department, we believe that reading is paramount to student success at GCSE.

We facilitate reading at Cox Green School with 10 minutes of silent reading at the beginning of each English lesson. We also have an exciting reading programme, The CGS 150 Challenge, where students are provided with the opportunity to read 150 books in their time at school. The challenge has been assisted by our Librarians who have created a bespoke list of 'accessible', 'challenging' and 'advanced' engaging novels for KS3 and KS4 students. Students complete book reviews after reading each novel, and are rewarded with achievement points, exciting prizes at the end of the academic year and awarded badges for the number of books read.

Reading aloud is an ancient art that has many benefits for adults and children:

- It sharpens your focus and reduces distractions.
- It increases your vocabulary and language skills.
- It improves your reading comprehension and understanding of complex texts.
- It gives you an opportunity to play with different voices and expressions.
- It exercises your body by engaging your vocal cords, lungs, and diaphragm.

You as parents/carers can support your child by encouraging them to read for pleasure at home and facilitate their reading aloud for 5-10 minutes each night. I would encourage you to read the following article by the BBC which discusses the researched benefits of reading aloud [Why you should read this out loud - BBC Future](#). We also have our literacy page [Literacy \(coxgreen.com\)](http://literacy.coxgreen.com) where you will find valuable information and resources including recommended reading lists for each year group.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Elliott Lynch  
Head of English

#readingmatters