Sandringham School
'Everybody can be Somebody'

Ambition Education Trust

The Ridgeway, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. AL4 9NX
Telephone: 01727 799560
Email: admin@sandringham.aetrust.uk
Website: www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Alan Gray, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.
Head of School: Mark Nicholls, BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: Caroline Creaby, BA, M.Ed, Ed.D
Deputy Headteacher: Kate Mouncey, BSc (Hons) MA

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Dear Families,

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Update for Year 9

Reading is really important to us at Sandringham School and we are writing to outline how we nurture a love of reading and how you can help your child at home as they progress through Year 9.

Firstly, we want to ensure students see the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) as their own and that they spend dedicated time here. For example, during this half-term all Year 9 students will attend a library lesson with their English teacher. During these lessons, students read independently and are able to talk 1-2-1 with a librarian about their reading.

Secondly, we make it a priority that the books provided are shaped by students' preferences. The LRC has a fantastic range of fiction and non-fiction suitable for all ages and abilities. Librarians regularly update stock and our buying decisions are shaped by student voice, demand, as well as current reading and viewing trends.

For example, our most borrowed books in Year 9 at the moment are:

- Suzanne Collins: Hunger Games series
- Tahreheh Mafi: Shatter Me series
- Lauren Roberts: Powerless series
- Jenny Han: The Summer I Turned Pretty series

Our library catalogue can be accessed through the Sandringham School website at:

https://sandringham.herts.sch.uk/General-Information/Learning-Resources/

Here you will find suggested and themed reading lists for all year groups. We take great pleasure in recommending books to our students. This might be in the form of a specific title that we feel the student will enjoy, or through a selection of books on a specific theme or genre that the student can choose from. Our aim is always to try and put the right book into the hands of our students.

Motivating teenagers to read at home can be challenging as life can be exceptionally busy with after school clubs and activities. We suggest that even ten to fifteen minutes per day (at the end of the day) is incredibly valuable and will help your child to relax and reflect. As a reminder, the following approaches to encouraging a child with their reading are well versed, but effective:

- **Offer choice:** Your child needs to be able to select reading material that genuinely interests them, whether fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, or audiobooks. Borrowbox (available from Hertfordshire Libraries) is an excellent source of audiobooks and e-books that works on the library lending model.
- **Lead by example:** Children who see adults reading are more likely to read themselves.

- **Create a culture of reading at home:** Talk about books, recommend titles, read alongside, or to your child. We often speak to students who are enjoying a book with a relative or carer. This might be in the form of a title the carer enjoyed as a child, a book on a favourite sporting hero or a book on a topic which is new to both readers.

Reading regularly for pleasure has so many benefits in terms of developing not only academic attainment, but also the soft skills required as students prepare to navigate life beyond the stability and structure of the school gates. Through reading, young people are exposed to different cultures, perspectives and experiences which helps to develop their emotional intelligence and improve their mental health.

If you have any questions or queries, or require some reading suggestions for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us via sand-library@sandringham.aetrust.uk

Yours sincerely,

Dr Caroline Creaby
Deputy Headteacher