



# Reading at Home

## Parent & Carer Guide



**T**wenty minutes reading, every night.

**I**nvite them to read aloud to you, once per week.

**M**odel good reading, by reading to them regularly.

**E**nvironment is key. Find a quiet space.

**T**rack the text with **your** finger as they read.

**O**nline resources such as audiobooks are great!

**R**eward and praise them for reading.

**E**ncourage a variety of texts. Fiction and non-fiction.

**A**sk them about what they're reading.

**D**eVICES turned off. No phones, TV, tablets, etc.



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### 1. **T**wenty minutes reading, every night.

Students should be reading at home for at least 20 minutes per day. This should be 'reading for pleasure' so it can be any text that your children want to read. Build this into their routine, and treat it as part of their home learning. Students should record the page numbers they read in their planner and we ask that an adult signs their planner to confirm that this reading has taken place. If you are struggling for books, they can be borrowed from our academy library or from Brownhills Community Library on Chester Road.

### 2. **I**nvide them to read aloud to you, once per week.

Listening to your child read is important on many levels. Firstly, it's your way to track their progress. The more they read to you, the better they get and you can experience that journey with them, first hand. Secondly, by hearing your child read to you get the opportunity to share a story with them, which might prompt discussion about the meaning, emotions or relatable experiences. It shows that you value reading which is an important motivational factor for young people.

### 3. **M**odel good reading, by reading to them regularly.

As well as listening to your child read, why not read to them, or ask a confident reader that you know to read to them. Young readers need models to copy. They will help your child's fluency and expression while reading which will improve their enjoyment and understanding of the text. If you are worried about reading to your child, you can achieve the same thing by listening to an audiobook with them. Play the audiobook and sit with your child with the text they are reading open, in front of both of you. To develop this even further try these two techniques:

**Choral Reading:** Try reading the text together with your child or, along to the audiobook.

**Echo Reading:** Ask your child to repeat what you, or the person on the audiobook has said, using the same expression.



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### 4. **E**nvironment is key. Find a quiet space.

Find the quietest space possible in your house for reading. This means there should be no music playing, devices should be switched off and as far as possible, there should be no noise to reduce chance of distraction. This isn't always possible, but having a designated space for reading can be a good way to get young people into good habits.

### 5. **T**rack the text with **your** finger as they read.

One way to improve fluency is to put your finger under the words as your child reads. You track the words with your finger, not their's. Move your finger at a steady speed and don't stop even if they start to fall behind. Keep going at a speed that encourages them to read faster. They will make mistakes but try and make sure they keep going. If they stop on a word, stop, help them then go back to the beginning of the sentence and read it again.

### 6. **O**nline resources such as audiobooks are great!

The internet has a vast range of resources that can be accessed to support your child's reading. Audiobooks provide excellent models of reading to show your child how to read fluently and expressively. There are websites which provide reviews on the best books for teens, and even some which offer free online versions of texts for them to access. See our [useful links](#) guide to find online resources that could support your child with reading at home.

### 7. **R**eward and praise them for reading.

Our students need to know that reading is important. In the long term, their reward for reading will come from the enjoyment of a good book, but sometimes, they need a bit of encouragement to get to that stage. In whatever way you feel is best for you and your child, please reward and praise them for sticking to a reading schedule, completing a book or engaging with literature. Even simple verbal praise might be enough motivation to keep them focused on meeting their reading goals. We will make sure we are rewarding and praising them at the academy as well.



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### 8. **E**ncourage a variety of texts. Fiction and non-fiction.

Some students will find different types of texts easier and more enjoyable than others. It is important that students read things they enjoy, but it is also important that they are exposed to a variety of different texts. Novels are a great place to start, but make sure that your child is accessing non-fiction texts as well. Newspapers, magazines, blogs, articles are all great ways to engage your child with non-fiction texts. If they are more inclined to read non-fiction and less keen on fiction, try graphic novels or comics as a way of introducing them to fiction. Our [useful links](#) document provides some online resources that you can use to find the right text for your child and help them achieve that variety in their reading.

### 9. **A**sk them about what they're reading.

Taking an interest in what your child is reading will have a significant impact on their motivation to read. By discussing their books with them and asking them questions regularly about their reading, it raises the profile and culture of reading at home. There are a range of questions you could ask that range from very simple questions, to more in-depth analysis of their texts:

- How many pages did you read today?
- What happened to \*this\* character?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- How did that chapter/article make you feel?

**Useful Link:** <https://educationblog.oup.com/secondary/talking-to-children-about-their-reading>

### 10. **D**evelop devices turned off. No phones, TV, tablets, etc.

When students are reading at home, make sure their devices are switched off or removed so there is no chance of distraction. Keeping phones and tablets in a different room from their designated reading area and making sure there are no TVs on or music playing while you are reading is important to make sure they completely focus on the text. It is important to get used to reading and working in silence to prepare for their exams that they will have to sit at the end of Year 11.