



BGE Curriculum info evening

English Faculty

Focus for the session:

- The importance of **reading!**
- Strategies to support, encourage and foster a culture of reading for enjoyment in young people.





BGE Curriculum:

- Builds upon skills and experiences of primary school.
- As BGE progresses, more focus on experiences that prepare students for a range of National Qualifications.

Education Scotland website:

<https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/curriculum-areas/languages/literacy-and-english/>

A focus on reading!

- All S1 & 2 students have 10 minutes of personal reading at the start of their English lessons (at least 30 mins a week).
 - Reading trackers
 - Library periods (once every 2 weeks).
 - 'Open' Library space.
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- **We value reading!**





Why reading is important:

- To encourage reading for pleasure and to instil a **love of literature** in our young people
- To promote reading and the benefits it brings over the many distractions in young people's lives
- Evidence consistently illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development
- Reading prepares us emotionally and educationally and arms us with skill, as well as information

The value of reading

- Reading attainment & writing ability
- Text comprehension & grammar
- Breath of vocabulary
- Positive reading attitudes
- Greater self-confidence as a reader
- General knowledge
- Better understanding of other cultures
- Greater insight into human nature and decision making.

Minutes per day	Words Read Per Year
65.0	4,358,000
21.1	1,823,000
9.6	622,000
4.6	282,000
1	8,000

Adapted from Anderson, Wilson & Fielding 'Growth in Reading and how children spend their time outside school'

What does reading look like today?

- *A worry that the more reading moves online, the less is understood*
- *Reading has changed profoundly since we were readers as students*
- *The screen does encourage more skimming behaviour, when we scroll we tend to read more quickly and therefore, less deeply*
- *We are potentially battling against other information in an online environment*
- *We stop less and therefore contemplate less*



Modelling Reading At Home

How can reading become part of our daily lives?

- Phones are incredibly distracting- for both young people and adults.
- Show how important reading is by making sure to prioritise reading for yourselves- make sure that your young people see you doing this. Talk to them about it!

Suggestions:

- Implement 'No phone time' where **all** phones go away/in a box for a set length of time. E.g. between 6pm-8pm.
- Ask your young people about what they are reading, and what they are enjoying about it.
- Listen to audiobooks/podcasts together when in the car.



Ways to encourage a reader

Offer support

Keep going. It takes 10 weeks to form a meaningful habit and three weeks to break one.

Don't make

Introduce books that are not for all of you.

E-books and Audio books

- **E-books and Audio books**
- Did you know, your child can download E-books, audiobooks and magazines using their school iPad? To access them, they need to be a member of Edinburgh City Libraries and download the Libby App.
- If your child is already a member, login details can be retrieved from the school library
- If your child does not have a library card or it has been misplaced/you have moved home, please complete this simple [form](#)
- Once completed a card will be generated and delivered to the them during Tutor or their English class.
- This service is part of Edinburgh City Libraries core offer, if you as a parent/carer would like to join up, simply head to your local library with some ID or register online [here](#).

How to encourage and support young people with reading.



- *It takes time and patience for young people to figure out what they like to read*
- Try graphic novels or Manga.
- Shorter 'abridged' versions of advanced texts.
- Audiobooks (Can be used alongside written text to follow along)
- Discuss what your child is reading with them!
- Read the book with them - this can work well if you
- include a competitive edge.
- Barrington Stoke books- dyslexic friendly books. We have range of these within our library.
- Make reading valuable and visible.

What books do we recommend?

- Everything and anything!
- But also, to be specific, and to know where to start here is a list of some suggestions from us and our librarian
- And here are some links with further recommendations
- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/jul/26/childrens-and-teens-roundup-the-best-new-picture-books-and-novels>
- <file:///D:/UserData/9093028/Downloads/S3+%20Reading%20List.pdf>

Recommendations:

Fantasy/Sci-fi/Dystopian:

- Northern Lights, *Philip Pullman*
- Skullduggery Pleasant, *Derek Landy*
- The Hunger Games, *Suzanne Collins*
- Noughts and Crosses, *Malorie Blackman*
- Lion Hearted Girl, *Yaba Badoe*

Contemporary:

- A Monster Calls, *Patrick Ness*
- THUG, *Angie Thomas*
- The Outsiders, *S.E Hilton*

Adventure:

- Alex Rider series, *Anthony Horowitz*
- CHERUB, *Robert Muchamore*
- A Good Girls Guide to Murder, *Holly Jackson*
- Rugby Flyer, *Gerard Siggins*

Graphic Novel:

- Heartstopper series, *Alice Oseman*
- Paper Girls, *Brian K Vaughan*
- The Complete MAUS, *Art Spiegelman*
- I am Alfonso Jones, *Alfonso Jones*

Challenge yourself:

- The Book Thief, *Markus Zusak*
- Brave New World, *Alduous Huxley*
- Frankenstein, *Mary Shelley*
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, *Mark Haddon*

Craigmount Learning Community

P7/S1 Book Group Recommendations – February 2024

Just before the February break, P7s and S1s met via Teams to share what they've enjoyed reading. Here's what we discussed!



Ciaran started our book group by telling us all about this book about the Norse God of Mischief. This is the third in the series and is written in a diary style, packed with comics and doodles. In this series, Loki is out to prove that he is good but things don't always work out the way he intends. In this book, he wonders if there is any point in being good once the drama teacher casts him as the villain in the school play. A discovery among the props and costumes leads to a story which Ciaran described as, "funny, mischievous and enjoyable."

Well this one is an oldie but a goodie! Olivia is currently reading this classic story by L. M. Montgomery, set in the late 19th Century. It tells the story of Anne, who is sent by mistake to two siblings who intend to adopt a boy but are sent Anne from the orphanage instead. She works on their farm and the story tells of her joys and struggles to be accepted in Green Gables. This is a classic tale, which has been made into movies and a series on Netflix, a true story of hope and perseverance. Olivia described it as "sweet, enchanting and cute," it's a story that continues to thrive.



Escape Room by Christopher Edge was recommended by Max, who did a fantastic job of describing this "exciting, energetic, edge-of-your-seat" book. When 12 year-old Ami arrives at The Escape she thinks it is just a game. As she meets her teammates and is given the task to find the Answer and save the world, she realises it is no ordinary game. Don't just take our word for it, here's what The Times had to say... "Gamers will love this mad, intense thriller... reminiscent of *Lord of the Flies*, *Squid Game* and the *Indiana Jones* films. I was on the edge of my chaise longue!"

Shravya is loving reading this book which she said really stands out as it has such interesting villains. A good baddie can really hook in a reader! This book consists of twelve stories, each featuring a monstrous villain from the Dr Who world. The chapters/stories are numbered unusually, going from 12-1, and Shravya said that she could not put it down. For those who like adventure and suspense, it sounds like this one is for you. Goodreads gave it four stars, Amazon gave 4.6...why don't you see if you would agree?!



Book Sale:



- We will be hosting a book sale in October (date TBC)
- We will be taking our S1s there within their class time.



We are here to support you.

English Curriculum Evening 2024



This session is short and we think it is really important that we can hear from you too.

If you have any other concerns, or feel like you need further support that the English department can help you with, fill out the Microsoft form using the QR code.

E.g. Would you benefit from a parent reading group?