



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

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Dear Parent/Carer

At St Cuthbert's, the ability to read is seen as a fundamental life skill. It enables children to not only learn across the curriculum but to also access numerous aspects of daily life. Moreover, research suggests that children, who read regularly outside of school, perform significantly better in school assessments, influencing the opportunities they have available to them in the future.

In the first few weeks of Year 7, your child completed a reading age assessment, which helped us to determine your child's ability to decode words, to comprehend what they had read, whilst also assessing their vocabulary knowledge. Based on this data, we will be implementing a Reading Development Programme, which aims to consolidate the reading skills your child already has, whilst also improving their reading fluency and their vocabulary recognition and understanding.

There are two strands of the Reading Development Programme: The Faster Reading Course, aimed at students reading at or above their chronological age, and the Reading Development Course aimed at students with a reading age below their chronological age. During Faster Reading, the focus will be on reading challenging texts with fluency, understanding and accuracy. There will also be a focus on improving students' recognition and understanding of ambitious vocabulary. Meanwhile, the Reading Development Course will ensure students are familiar with all the phonemes (sounds) in the English language, whilst also improving their reading of high frequency words, comprehension skills and their reading fluency.

Your support at home is also essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by encouraging them to read daily (for approximately 20 minutes). Reading widely will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books, whilst also improving their skills as a writer.

By working together we can ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader. If you require any further guidance regarding reading, please contact me or your child's English teacher and we will be happy to answer your queries.

Yours faithfully

A Carney

Mrs A M Carney
Curriculum Leader for English

