

Newlands Girls' School

Courage Commitment Compassion

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Dear Parents and Carers

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of our planned curriculum and to highlight ways in which students can be further supported with their independent learning and homework. This year we are also asking that from January all Key Stage 3 pupils carry a pocket dictionary and thesaurus as part of their equipment. We recommend the following copies:

[Oxford Mini Dictionary and Thesaurus](#)

[Collins Mini Dictionary and Thesaurus](#)

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you would like us to provide them with a copy, please contact me.

Curriculum Topics:

Across the year your child will study a range of topics. These topics will focus on developing their skills in reading, writing and spoken language. These topics can all be viewed on our school website: [KS3 - English Language and Literature - Newlands Girls' School](#)

Year 9 students will also complete a formal Year 9 exam in the Summer Term. This is a reading assessment using an unseen extract.

Homework and Independent Learning:

The class teacher will issue this each week, in line with their homework timetable. Students are to check their planners and/or Teams for their tasks and deadlines. This will be directed by their teacher. If your child would like to engage in further reading or independent learning, they could consider:

- The 'Independent Learning' booklet made available on their English Teams page
- Reading literature related to the topics they are studying in class

Independent Reading:

Reading allows all of us to build our vocabulary, improve our understanding and strengthens our lateral thinking skills (which is important for all subjects!) [Recommended Reading Lists](#) can be found in the Library section of the school website.

We recommend that all students:

- Read for 30-60 minutes per week
- Listen to audiobooks
- For Year 9 students particularly, we also recommend that they engage with reading newspapers and online broadsheet articles

Earlier in September I emailed you all regarding Key Stage 3 reading and how reading content can be vastly different for different age groups. This continues to be an ongoing issue. We want to continue nurturing and creating more independent readers in our school but I do ask that when buying books, you are checking whether they are age appropriate. Further information and guidance can be found in my previous letter: [KS3 Reading Letter](#)

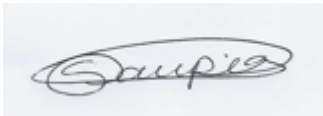
Classics Reading and Genre Challenges:

The aim of both challenges is to encourage as many students as possible to read a wider range of literature, some of which have come to define world literature. It is aimed at all students but particularly those in Key Stages 3 and 4 who would like to enjoy and become more knowledgeable of literature that has resonated with readers from around the world.

All students need to do to begin the challenge is visit the Library and ask Mrs. Flood for a score card.

I wish you all a lovely break and we are all looking forward to beginning the new term in January.

Yours sincerely



Keira Paupiah
Head of Key Stage 3 English



We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

