



Thursday, November 21st, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Noel-Baker Academy, we know that reading opens doorways, both academically and in the wider world. We believe that no student should ever feel that their literacy skills are holding them back from experiencing the full, knowledge-rich curriculum offered at Noel-Baker Academy, nor the wider world.

We know that good literacy skills and clear communication can powerfully address social disadvantage and help to prepare students to flourish, both in further education and also in the wider world.

This academic year, we have placed reading at the heart of the Noel-Baker Academy curriculum. Current and long-standing educational research suggests that reading has many benefits:

- It supports the development of emotional intelligence and empathy
- It results in increased knowledge
- It promotes mindfulness
- It facilitates vocabulary expansion
- It supports the development of stronger analytical skills
- It develops verbal reasoning and improved communication skills
- It can create a feeling of gratification and achievement when a young person completes a book.

In short, reading regularly will benefit students right across the breadth of the curriculum and beyond.

Research data from Christina Clark's *Children's and Young People's Reading* (2013) suggests that, of children who read every day, 68.2% will achieve expected progress and attainment, whilst 27.9% will achieve above expected progress. However, the table below demonstrates significantly lower attainment for those students who do not engage in daily reading.

Table 2: Reading frequency and reading attainment in 2013 (N = 12,960)

	Below expected level %	At expected level %	Above expected level %
Every day	3.9	68.2	27.9
A few times a week	6.7	83.2	10.1
About once a week	10.7	81.9	7.4
A few times a month	10.2	83.0	6.8
About once a month	17.7	75.0	7.3
Rarely	20.3	72.9	6.8
Never	35.4	59.5	5.1

To encourage reading, all students will be read to once a week during daily PSHE. Form tutors will read a selection of short stories from a variety of cultures and time periods. Additionally, all students will be given a reading homework log. The expectation is that your child will read for 20 minutes, five



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times a week (or equivalent to 100 minutes a week). Students will use the reading log to make a note of the pages they have read and to write a brief summary of their reading.

After each reading session has been completed, a parent or carer signature is required. We would encourage you to participate with this reading, as reading with your child and to your child is advantageous.

This reading homework will be logged by your child's tutor on Go4Schools and the reading log will be checked by form tutors on a weekly basis. Every child who completes their weekly log (signed by a parent or carer) will be awarded 5 reward points on Go4Schools. Please be aware that this homework will remain open for the full academic year, and will not be marked as 'complete' each week, owing to the ongoing need for students to read daily.

As an Academy, we are passionate about the importance and benefits of reading and would like to thank you in advance for your on-going support.

Yours faithfully,

C Chadwick

Cheri Chadwick

Teacher of English

Academy Literacy Lead