



January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## **National Year of Reading 2026**

The National Year of Reading is a Department of Education initiative to promote reading for pleasure to improve the nation's reading culture.

Evidence from the National Literacy Trust's 2025 UK survey reveals that only one in three children aged 8 to 18 reported enjoying reading in their free time, whilst just one in five read something daily.

Additional research has found that students who continue to read regularly achieve significantly better results in their GCSEs especially in subjects like English, Science, and even Maths. A strong vocabulary and confident reading skills directly support performance across the curriculum. Reading also boosts critical thinking, improves writing skills, and helps students engage more deeply with all subjects.

To support the National Year of Reading, we have put together a programme of events for students ranging from assemblies, form time activities, author visits, illustration workshops, competitions, treasure hunts, book swaps and afterschool book-themed celebrations.

Strategies to support your child's reading journey include talking to your child about what they are reading and encouraging them to experiment with genre choices. Reading aloud together, irrespective of your child's age, is still a useful technique to support fluency and vocabulary acquisition. Finding a book aligned to a passion or a hobby can also help create engagement.

Our Learning Resource Centre offers a wide range of books tailored to all interests and reading levels. Our catalogue can be searched for authors and book titles and our experienced library staff can recommend book choices. Additionally, your child has access to the Ashlyns eLibrary, where they can read (and listen to) digital books on their chromebooks. Students can set their own reading preferences on screen including incorporating colour underlays and changing fonts.

By continuing to encourage your child to read, whatever their age, you are helping them build essential life skills, maintain academic momentum, and prepare confidently for their future.

Thank you for your ongoing support in fostering a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Harvey  
Head of English

Ms R Lambert  
LRC Manager