

Helping your Child to Read at Home

'The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go'
(Dr. Seuss)

Reading is Important

At Isaac Newton Academy our aim is to equip every child with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond. In order for our students to meet our challenging targets and high aspirations they must become highly proficient, fluent, enthusiastic readers.

There is a strong relationship between being an accomplished reader and enjoying top grades and success in life.

Research also shows that when families promote the idea that reading is a good form of entertainment and a source of pleasure children are more likely to be more motivated to read. It is therefore really important that you read with your child and model that reading is enjoyable and worthwhile.

What we are doing differently at Isaac Newton Academy

At Isaac Newton Academy we want our students to become confident, fluent, enthusiastic readers. We also want them to develop the habit of reading and a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

- Your child has a one hour reading lesson in the library every week during Year 7, in addition to five hours of English lessons
- Your child is expected to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes each day
- We test students' reading ages at the start of Year 7 and we monitor their progress in reading during the year. We also let you know your child's current reading age and how he/she is progressing
- Students whose reading age is significantly below expectation are given extra support and more opportunities to develop their reading. We invite parents of these children into school to read with their child and to observe a reading lesson taking place
- Your child's form tutor hosts a weekly discussion about the books his/her class has been reading
- Every member of staff at Isaac Newton Academy is considered to be a teacher of reading and models the habit of reading
- All staff are trained on how to support and develop students' reading skills
- Students are praised and recognised when they have tried hard with their reading and when they have made progress
- Books are used as awards as part of the Praise and Recognition Policy

How you can help

- Read aloud to your child. Reading aloud helps children to learn the language of books and encourages them to enjoy books and reading
- Talk about books, read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity
- Make sure there is a wide range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction
- Read the newspapers together and talk about the news stories
- Read to your child in your home language if English is not your first language. Experience shows that using your home language will help your child to learn to read better in English
- Try not to let television intrude upon reading time. Make it a special time for your child, away from interruptions
- Listen to your child read every day, even if it's only a couple of pages
- Take your child to the library and choose books together
- Let your child see you reading and tell him/her about what you're reading
- Give books as presents and treats

Top Tips for Listening to Your Child Read

- Before reading: talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about
- During reading: discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next
- After reading: ask questions about the story and share your views on it
- When reading a harder book together, take turns
- On finding an unknown word:
 - Pause to give your child time to work out the word
 - Go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read just the difficult word to the end of the sentence
 - Look for a clue in the words
 - Look for the first letter and think about what the words could be
 - Ask 'Does this make sense?'
 - Try to sound the word out
 - If necessary, tell your child the word
- Praise your child for trying, even if mistakes are made