

Friday 23 January 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The River Canon

We are excited to have launched the River Canon with our Year 7 and Year 8 students. The River Canon is a reading challenge designed to support students in reading books of different genres and forms to help them develop into confident and well-rounded readers.

Each year group has their own River Canon that includes short stories, non-fiction, verse novels, graphic novels, classic literature and modern young adult fiction. We hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Students have all been given a River Canon booklet, which are also attached here and available on SharePoint. Students have until the end of the academic year to try and reach gold, silver or bronze. There will be prizes and merits, and these booklets will be checked throughout the year in tutor time and in English lessons.

Students at River are making fantastic progress when it comes to reading, and we hope that this challenge will help them build positive habits around reading for pleasure and encourage them to try new authors and genres.

We are thrilled that our library is now open every lunchtime for students, and while we continue to work hard to add more books to our collection, there are lots of fantastic books for students to borrow, including the books on the River Canon (and more copies will be arriving soon). With this in mind, when tutors are doing equipment checks over the next couple of weeks, they will be making sure that students have a suitable book (one that is appropriately challenging).

We want students to read for pleasure but have noticed students who are able readers still reading books like *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Dog-Man* (which have reading ages of 8 and 6). Only reading these sorts of books is not going to help students develop their reading, which is something we all know is fundamental to their academic success. Therefore, students may be asked to bring in a more appropriate book (they can borrow one from the library) and will receive an equipment detention if this has not been done by the following week.

Please encourage your child to get involved with the River Canon and check that the book they have for school is challenging enough for them.



Thank you to all of those who have donated to the library so far and have shared our Amazon Wishlist. If you are able to donate, please click the link [here](#).

There will be more book news coming out soon, as we have World Book Day and our Scholastic book fair coming up, so please keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Kind regards,



Ms E Myers

Head of English

