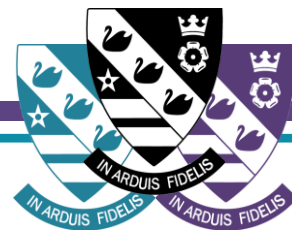


SELBY HIGH SCHOOL



A Specialist School for the Arts and Science

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25th September 2026

Dear parents / carers / guardians of year 8 students,

Reading Plus

For homework in English, Year 8 students will build on their excellent start from last year and continue to use the Reading Plus platform once they have completed their Insight Assessments.

To remind you, the aims of Reading Plus are:

- To give students regular reading practice of medium length texts which they have selected themselves to foster enthusiasm, whilst also encouraging them to read a range of texts.
- To motivate students to read regularly and widely through a range of challenges and awards within the programme, and rewards and prizes for achievements from the school.
- To develop vocabulary, fluency (speed) and comprehension skills that will make reading and therefore progress across all school subjects.
- To read texts from which they can learn, benefiting all school subjects.
- To develop good routines and study habits which will benefit them when they are preparing for tests and their GCSE exams.

Students will also need to have a reading book with them at all times, either from home, or issued from our fantastic Learning Resource Centre (library), and should be encouraged to maintain a good private reading habit.

Following a successful trial with last year's year 8,

- 1) Our expectation for Year 8 students is that they either complete all 5 reading lessons and their vocabulary lesson each week, or **that they pass at least 3 of their quizzes at 80% or higher.**
- 2) Students will be rewarded if they do either of these things each week.
Students only progress to higher libraries by passing combinations of quizzes at this level. Please emphasise that **reading carefully, and answering quizzes as accurately as possible, using the re-read function** in the platform where necessary, is the **key to good progress**
- 3) Students completing lessons in a library **at least two years** above their school age will have the option to **complete fewer than five lessons** each week. The reasons for this are that higher level lessons are based on longer, more complex texts, and that we want to reward students who pass quizzes by reading carefully so they can complete quizzes accurately.

We would also like students who have proven that they are keen and proficient readers by reaching a high level to have more choice and independence about their choices of reading matter.



Students will continue to have one PD session per fortnight and around 20 minutes in their fortnightly library hub lesson to work on these lessons. The rest of these need to be completed independently, either in school homework clubs, or at home.

Students who are not engaging sufficiently with their home learning will be issued sanctions, including additional sessions after school, to ensure they meet the set expectations, so please support and emphasise the importance of completing these lessons to your child. The first week that we will be formally setting homework for Year 8 will **be next week, on Monday 28st September due for Sunday 4th October.**

If your son or daughter has not yet completed their Insight assessment in school, they need to do this before starting reading plus homework. Please contact me or their class teacher so we can arrange this in school time. Students who have not completed the Insight assessment will not be sanctioned for non-completion of homework.

Also, if your son or daughter is **unable to complete their set tasks** due to illness, technical issues or any other circumstances, it would be really helpful if you could **email their English teacher** so that we can exempt your child from sanctions during that week.

Whilst we would like the majority of students to complete the 6 set lessons a week, or pass three reading lessons, we understand that this is unrealistic for some students, so we will also reduce the number of weekly lessons for students who have specific additional needs or who are trying hard but still struggling to complete this amount. We will also offer sessions within school time to support students who are completing lessons, but struggling to pass the quizzes.

Hopefully that is clear, but if you have any questions, please email me or Miss Sewell at bp@selbyhigh.co.uk or ise@selbyhigh.co.uk.

Thank you for your support with this.

Kind regards

Ben Patchesa
Literacy Lead and CAL Media Studies

Isobel Sewell
Reading Champion