



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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26th June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

The transition from primary to secondary school is an exciting (and frightening) time. There are some things that we can do over the summer to help our children prepare for this change and feel confident when they join in September. One of these things is developing reading skills.

A number of our new Year 7s will already be engaged and experienced readers who are lucky to have access to a local library or their own collection of books at home. Some will also have parents who are keen readers and are able to read aloud and listen to stories at home. There are also some children who are very reluctant to read and no form of bribery will get them to pick up a book!

The expectation at Sir Thomas Fremantle School is that students will carry a reading book as part of their basic equipment. There is dedicated reading time in form time and English lessons as well as competitions and reading reviews held by the library throughout the year.

The skill of reading comprehension is perhaps the most important that a child can engage with. A confidence with the written word not only supports their academic and cognitive development but also their social and emotional development too. Students that read a range of appropriate material frequently are statistically better achievers across their subjects.

I have included a recommended reading book list to help you and your child select an appropriate book (or books) to read over the summer holidays. If your child is reading something different and enjoying it, please ask them to pass the title on to their English teacher in September: we always love new recommendations!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about book reading for September.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Nelson
Head of English Department

Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?		
STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
• Reads an average of 20 minutes per day.	• Reads an average of 5 minutes per day.	• Reads an average of 1 minutes per day.
• 3,600 minutes/school year	• 900 minutes/school year	• 180 minutes/school year
• 1,800,000 words per year	• 282,000 words per year	• 8,000 words per year
By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 60 school days	By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 12 school days	By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 3 school days
In order for children to become better readers, they need time to read.		



Year 7 - Suggested Reading List

Adventure

- Stormbreaker / Anthony Horowitz
- Swallows & Amazons / Arthur Ransome
- Lion Boy / Zouzou Corder
- Cold Tom / Sally Prue
- Troy / Adele Gèras
- The Thief Lord / Cornelia Funke
- The Moon Riders / Theresa Tomlinson
- Castaways of the Flying Dutchman / Brian Jacques
- Alpha Force Series / Chris Ryan

Real Life/Teenage

- The Princess Diaries / Meg Cabot
- Noughts and Crosses / Malorie Blackman
- Refugee Boy / Benjamin Zephaniah
- Madame Doubtfire / Anne Fine
- Just Don't Make a Scene Mum! / Rosie Rushton
- Mates, Dates & Sole Survivors / Cathy Hopkins
- Saffy's Angel / Hilary McKay
- Holes / Louis Sachar
- Lola Rose / Jacqueline Wilson
- Vicky Angel / Jacqueline Wilson
- The Story of Tracy Beaker / Jacqueline Wilson
- Feeling Sorry for Celia / Jaclyn Moriarty

History

- Goodnight Mr Tom / Michelle Magorian
- The Wheel of Surya / Jamila Gavin
- Kiss the Dust / Elizabeth Laird
- The Ruby in the Smoke / Philip Pullman
- Roman Mysteries / Caroline Lawrence
- Sweet Clarinet / James Riordan
- Carrie's War / Nina Bawden
- I Coriander / Sally Gardner

Classics

- Little Women / Louisa May Alcott
- The Secret Garden / Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Heidi / Johanna Spyri
- Carrie's War / Nina Bawden
- A Christmas Carol / Charles Dickens
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland / Lewis Carroll
- The Lost World / Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- The Railway Children / Elizabeth Nesbit
- The Hobbit / J R R Tolkien
- The Water Babies / Charles Kingsley
- Black Beauty / Anna Sewell
- Ballet Shoes / Noel Streatfield
- The Wizard of Oz / Frank Baum

Fantasy

- Moon Riders / Teresa Tomlinson
- Northern Lights / Philip Pullman
- Stormchasers / Stewart & Riddell
- Redwall / Brian Jacques
- The Hobbit / JRR Tolkien
- The Earthsea Quartet / Ursula Le Guin
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase / Joan Aiken
- Artemis Fowl / Eoin Colfer
- A Series of Unfortunate Events / Lemony Snicket
- The Spiderwick Chronicles / Tony Di Terlizzi & Holly Black
- Cry of the Iceberg / Stuart Hill
- Harry Potter / J.K. Rowling
- The Chronicles of Narnia / C.S. Lewis
- Watership Down / Richard Adams

