FAMILIES BULLETIN
17 October

The Power of Reading for Pleasure: How Parents Can Help their Children Fall in Love with Books

In an age of screens, streaming, and social media, reading for pleasure can sometimes take a back seat — especially for secondary school students juggling homework, exams, and extracurricular activities. Yet research consistently shows that reading for pleasure is one of the most important habits a young person can develop. It not only supports academic achievement but also builds empathy, imagination, and emotional wellbeing.



Why Reading for Pleasure Matters

Reading for enjoyment is more than just a pastime — it's a powerful tool for lifelong success. Studies by the National Literacy Trust and OECD have shown that children who read for pleasure perform better in vocabulary, spelling and other subjects. Beyond grades, reading helps teenagers:

- Build empathy and emotional intelligence by seeing the world through different perspectives.
- Reduce stress and improve wellbeing, offering a healthy escape and time for reflection.
- Develop stronger focus and creativity, vital skills for both learning and life.
- Enhance communication skills, giving them the confidence to express themselves clearly and think critically.

In short, reading for pleasure doesn't just make students better readers — it helps them become more rounded, thoughtful individuals.

How Parents Can Encourage Reading at Home

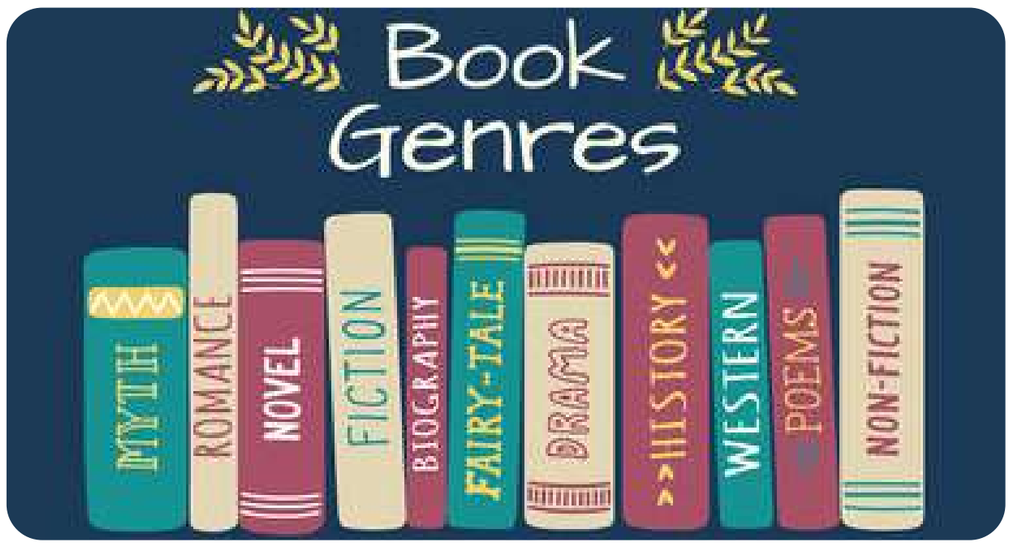
You don't need to be an avid reader yourself to help your child build a reading habit. Here are some simple, effective ways to foster a love of reading at home:

1: Create a Reading-Friendly Environment

Keep books and magazines around the house — on coffee tables, in bedrooms, even in the car. A visible presence of reading materials reminds teenagers that books are part of everyday life. If space allows, set up a small reading corner or shelf where your child can unwind with a book.

2: Let Them Choose

Choice is key. Whether it's a fantasy series, sports biography, graphic novel, or even an online article, allow your teen to pick what interests them. The goal is to make reading feel enjoyable, not like homework.



3: Model Reading Yourself

Teenagers notice what parents do. When they see you reading — a book, newspaper, or e-reader — it sends a powerful message that reading is valuable and rewarding. Talk about what you're reading and invite them to share theirs too.

4: Talk about Books

Ask open questions like, "What did you think of the main character?" or "Would you recommend that book to a friend?" This kind of discussion strengthens comprehension and shows genuine interest in their opinions.

5: Make Reading Social

Encourage book swaps with friends, visit the local library together, or listen to audiobooks on car journeys. Some families enjoy reading the same book and chatting about it over dinner.

6: Balance Screens and Pages

It's unrealistic to ban screens, but you can create gentle routines — such as "no phones before bed" or "15 minutes of reading before sleep." Many teens find winding down with a book helps them relax and sleep better.

7: Celebrate Reading

Praise your teen's reading choices and progress, no matter how small. You could even create small reading challenges, such as "a book a month" or "five books before the holidays."

Final Thoughts

Reading for pleasure is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to boost your child's confidence, curiosity, and academic success. With your encouragement and a little creativity, you can help turn reading from a task into a treasured habit — one that can enrich their lives long after they leave school.

The half-term break is the ideal time to enjoy reading together

Mr Needham
Assistant Headteacher

October Half-Term

Dear Families,

We wish all our students, a happy and safe half-term break. Please note that the school office will be closed from **Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 31st October 2025**. The office will reopen on **Monday 3rd November 2025 at 8:00am**.

During this time, if you have any safeguarding concerns or require support, please do not hesitate to use the contact details below:

RGTS Safeguarding Team
Email: rgtssafeguardingteam@rgtrustschool.net
Mobile: 07412 449618
Webpage: RGTS Safeguarding Page

NSPCC and Childline
Childline (18 or under?): 0800 1111
Number: 0808 800 5000 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Kooth
Download the App for anonymous 24 hour support



School Holiday Payment

We have been notified by Greenwich Council that there will be **no school holiday payment** for October half term.

The only payment confirmed for the 2025/26 academic year is a £50 per child payment for the Christmas holiday. Eligibility criteria (i.e., receipt of benefits-related FSM, or equivalent benefits for early years children) will be the same as previous payments.

Families are advised to check the Greenwich Support page to review other support options you may be able to access. Greenwich Supports: Get help with the cost of living crisis

Key Dates for Term 2

Please see below key dates for the upcoming term.

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Tuesday 4th November - Monday 10th November	GCSE Resit Exams	Year 12 and 13	Various
Thursday 13th November	School Photographs	All Year Groups	All Day
Monday 17th November - Thursday 24th November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	Year 11	Various
Thursday 20th November	Year 8 Parents' Evening	Year 8	4:00pm - 7:00pm (Appointment Only)
Friday 21st November	INSET Day - School Closed (Year 11 Art and Engineering students will attend for examinations)	All Year Groups	All Day
Tuesday 2nd December	Twilight - Early Dismissal (**Changed from Tuesday 18th November**)	All Year Groups	Half Day
Thursday 4th December	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 9	4:00pm - 7:00pm (Appointment Only)

Year 8 Parents' Evening

"Helping Your Child Thrive in Year 8 – Building Resilience, Opening Doors to Opportunity"

Purpose of the Evening

The Year 8 Parents' Evening is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and understand how they are learning and some of the ways you can support at home.

Before the Evening

- Book your appointments through Arbor. The following guide will walk you through how to do this:
  Booking Parents' Evening Appointments
- Check your times and arrive 5 minutes early to avoid delays.
- Bring any questions you'd like to ask about your child's progress or wellbeing.
- Talk to your child beforehand – ask what they feel proud of this term and what they find most challenging.

During the Evening

-Sign in at reception on arrival.
-Collect your appointment card and follow signs to your child's subject teachers.
-Meet subject teachers to discuss learning progress, attitude, and how your child responds to challenges.
-Visit the Resilience Station / Information Table for practical strategies on:
- Supporting motivation and self-belief
- Managing setbacks positively
- Encouraging independence and effort at home

-Pastoral and support staff will also be available for any wellbeing or attendance questions.

After the Evening

-Reflect with your child:
- What are you most proud of?
- What's one goal you want to work on this term?
- How can we help you bounce back when things are difficult?

-Set a small target together (e.g., revising regularly, asking for help sooner, joining a club).
-Follow up with your child's tutor or Head of Year if you need extra support.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher

Post 16 and 18 Progression

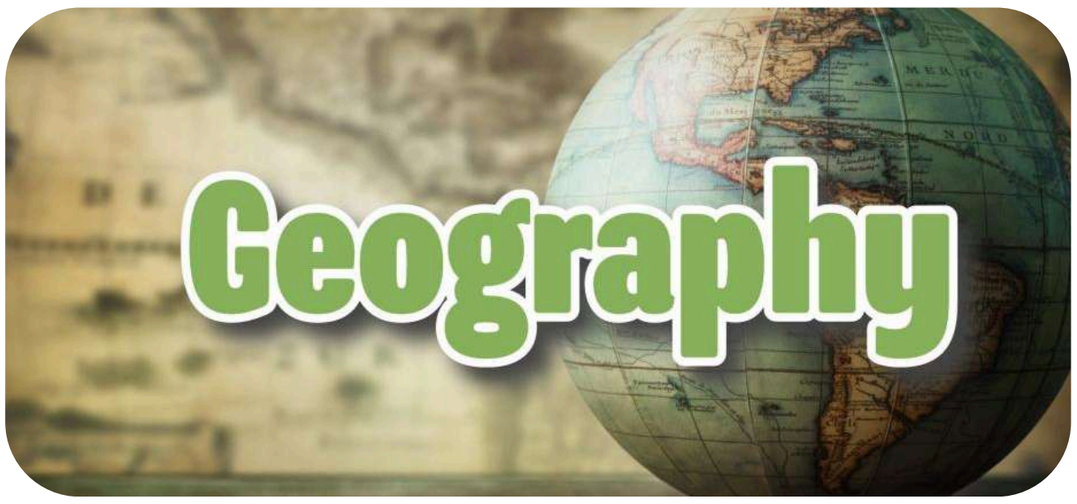
Supporting your child with their decisions for the next step in their education can be quite daunting for families, due to the range of pathways including colleges, 6th forms, and universities.

Here is a help website to support you in supporting your child in making these all important choices for their progression.

https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/your-childs-options/

By Christmas, we would advice all Year 11 students have applied for two courses. Their tutors will be supporting them in this journey, tracking their application process, and our Careers Advisor will be starting 1:1 appointments over term 2.

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)



Curriculum Spotlight: Geography

Key Stage 3

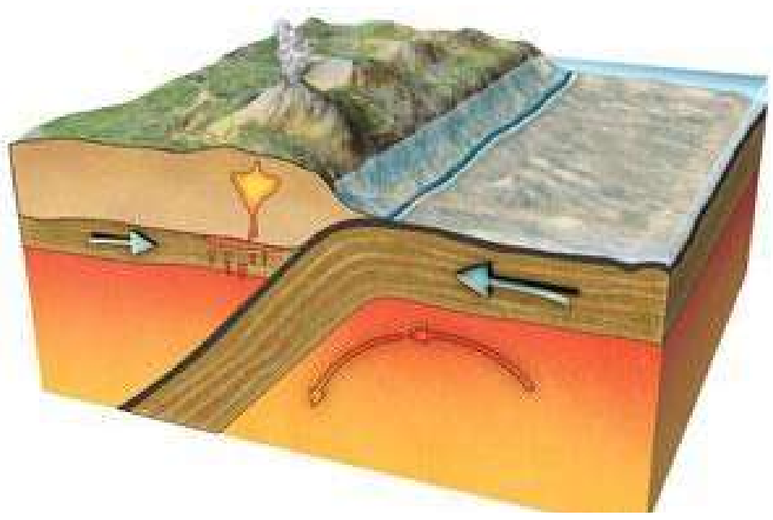
All year groups have made a very good start to the year. The new Year 7 cohort and undergoing their induction into secondary school geography and all classes have had their first taste of outdoor education during their trip to Maryon Park, with other outdoor visits planned as part of their curriculum time.

Both Year 8 and 9 students will also have opportunities for outdoor education, with both year groups being taken out of the classroom after the half term holiday.

Year 8 students are benefitting from a change in the order of teaching to link better with the other Humanities subjects with students now being to appreciate the links between geographical and historical contexts and events in Africa.



Year 9 are currently studying plate tectonics, including the 3 main natural hazards caused by plate movement which is essential preparation for studying Geography at GCSE and are embracing the subject extremely well.



Year 10

The new Year 10 cohort has started the course extremely brightly and are currently studying Global Geographical Hazards under the expert tutelage of Mr Sackur and are making very good progress. They will be visiting Herne Bay for their first piece of fieldwork later in the year (when it gets warmer) and will be working through a wide variety of geographical concepts until then.



We have very high hopes for the progress of the current year 11 group who are working hard on their studies of changing physical landscapes in the UK and are presently studying how rivers evolve themselves and change the landscape around them. They have recently completed their second compulsory field trip, this one involving studying various areas of East London in order to compare their quality of life. The students enjoyed the day and their conduct was an absolute credit to RGTS.



We are currently in the middle of introducing a new online learning resource (Seneca) which will be used to promote the achievement of all students at KS4 and we will inform parents/carers when it is up and running.

Mr Moore
Head of Faculty - Humanities

Red, White and Black Day

On Saturday 18th October 2025, Our inspires intervention student attended the Red, White and Black day Charlton football match against Sheffield Wednesday.

Red, White and Black day is a day where we celebrate diversity within the community and football.
Our students were supported by Ms Howarth, Ms Pyke and Ms Mitchell.

After spending the last 4 weeks designing our banner that was proudly carried by Ellie-Mae, Bella, Alice, Frankie-Bleu, Billy, Abdi and Mahdi, the banner was on full show with our students leading the parade from Charlton Station to The Valleys where our students enjoyed an amazing game where Charlton won 2-1.

A further 20 students also were given tickets to attend the event, and we only had positive feedback regarding their behaviour.

Bella said "On Saturday 18th October, I got to watch Charlton Vs Sheffield Wednesday. This was an amazing opportunity to raise awareness about diversity and promote Charlton Red, White and Black day. Thank you to Rayquan and Charlton athletics for such a great day."

Mahdi said "On Saturday we had a lot of fun while watching the Charlton game with my friends, it was an amazing opportunity. I thank Miss Faucher that allowed me to have the chance to experience this."





Holiday Activity - Children's Comic Art Workshop



Flu Clinics

Please see the information below from the Greenwich Immunisations Team.

NHS
South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or attend school in the borough of Greenwich? Aged 4 - 16?

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Saturday 15 November, 10:30 - 14:30
Lee Green Fire Station, SE12 8ES

Saturday 29 November, 10:00 - 13:30
Waverly Scouts Hall, SE18 7QT

Saturday 6 December, 12:00 - 15:00
Holy Trinity, Eltham, SE9 2SD

Call 020 3903 3345 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment

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Thursday 6 November, 15:00 - 16:15
Waterways Children's Centre, SE28 8EZ

Tuesday 11 November, 15:00 - 16:15
Waterways Children's Centre, SE28 8EZ

Friday 12 December, 15:00 - 16:15
Waterways Children's Centre, SE28 8EZ

Call 020 3903 3345 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment