

22 September 2022



Dear Parents/Carers

Here at Hampton College, we know how important reading is to the development of our young people.

Reading for pleasure is, without doubt, the most effective way to improve academic results, increase levels of happiness and develop your minds and imagination. Young people who read regularly are likely to have wider vocabularies and be able to communicate more effectively in both their writing and oral interactions.

Regular reading for pleasure is a way for young people to access different walks of life, points of view and ways of living, giving them a greater cultural understanding of the world around them. This understanding is so valuable and enables them to access information and ideas in many varied subject areas.

In an age where our lives are dominated by electronic devices and social media, reading has also been shown to have real benefits for mental health, reducing stress and anxiety.

We know that in Primary schools students are expected to read regularly, but this good habit is often lost when students begin Secondary school. We chose to address this. We want all our young people at Hampton College to engage in reading for pleasure. We would like students to feel the thrill of finding a new book or having the independence to choose their own reading material.

So how can you help?

- **Encourage your child to read regularly at home.** All students in years 7-11 have reading home learning starting next week. They should aim to read for at least 20 minutes, three times a week and log what they have read on their Teams Literacy Hub. Students who regularly engage will be rewarded and names entered into raffles for half termly prizes.
- **Encourage your child to discuss their 'Register and Read' books at home.** This week we have launched our biggest ever reading initiative, where students are being read to twice a week by their tutors.
- **Talk to your child about what they are reading for pleasure.** Encourage them to use the school library and the local Vivacity libraries. E-mail our librarian Mrs Fletcher (FFletcher@hamptoncollege.org.uk) if your child needs some support with their selections or have them feel free to visit the library to choose some books.

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Above all, we want students to reignite the joy that comes with exploring a new text or finding out information for themselves, ultimately equipping themselves for their futures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Shipp', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Victoria Shipp  
English Teacher and Whole School Literacy Coordinator