



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: English/2024-25/Reading/tp

21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Did you know that the required reading age for the average GCSE paper is 15 years, therefore, pupils who do not have a reading age above this, are already at a disadvantage before they begin.

The wider benefits of being a proficient reader are evident. Reading for pleasure supports relaxation and well-being whilst in addition, strong readers have the confidence to access and understand a vast range of information that is important throughout their adult life. Reading is not just about being able to read the words, it is about understanding their meaning and context.

With this in mind, it is our priority to ensure that all pupils have a reading age that is in line with their chronological age and will provide support and intervention to help our pupils achieve this.

The development of literacy and reading within the curriculum is also an ongoing priority with subject specific words (Disciplinary Literacy) linked to specific subject knowledge. In addition, the academy website has a page dedicated to literacy in the curriculum.

Age-appropriate books are available, as well as resources to support pupils who have challenges due to dyslexia. We want to encourage all pupils to engage with this to enhance their reading ability and perhaps develop a love for learning. Additional books are available in the Junction and through our 'Book Swap' scheme, where books are borrowed and returned, with Year 7 having the opportunity to join the local library as part of their lessons.

When pupils join the academy, either in year 7 or as an in-year transfer, we conduct a reading test to ascertain what their current reading age is and also to provide further information about their strengths and possible areas for development.

If pupils have been identified as requiring additional support to raise their reading age and develop their word recognition and/or comprehension, they will be involved in a tiered support package.

Your support is invaluable. It is an investment in your child. Do they read at home? Taking the time to listen to your child read and asking questions is hugely significant.

Further help can be provided at home by asking about:

- What is being read?
- What is the book / story about? – summarise the text or book
- Who the main characters are
- What do they know about the time it is set?
- What they enjoy about the book
- What might happen next?

The literacy page on the academy website offers suggested texts to support further reading. This can be found at [www.wintertonca.com/literacy](http://www.wintertonca.com/literacy)

Should you wish to discuss this and to obtain further information, then please contact me at the academy via email using [Featherstone.r@wintertonca.com](mailto:Featherstone.r@wintertonca.com)

Alternatively, you may wish to discuss it further with our special educational needs coordinator, Miss Forman using [forman.e@wintertonca.com](mailto:forman.e@wintertonca.com)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RC Featherstone". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mr Featherstone  
Deputy Headteacher