



## **'Reading Culture' at George Spencer Academy**

23 September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

At George Spencer Academy we know that reading for pleasure can be transformational to our students and their development as young people. Reading opens up students' imaginations to new worlds, new perspectives and new ideas. It can expand students' understanding of history, places, people and culture and develop their empathy and emotional intelligence. It can support their mental well-being with research showing that 10 minutes of reading is more effective at reducing stress than gaming, listening to music or going for a walk. In addition to these vital benefits, reading can boost the educational attainment and progress made by students throughout their education.

For example, research shows that students who read for pleasure regularly will:

- Have a 24% larger vocabulary by the age of 14 than those that do not
- Be more likely to achieve grade 5+ passes in all subjects at GCSE
- Have a 10% advantage in Maths attainment by age of 16

For these reasons, we wanted to make you aware of the variety of reading opportunities and events that are on offer at George Spencer as your child embarks on life in Year 9.

### **The Library and e-Platform**

Our library is a thriving and welcoming space in school that celebrates and promotes all things reading. It is open to students from **8.15am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday**, and **8.15am-3.30pm on Fridays**. It offers a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books, each one with a label on the spine to identify its target age allowing them to be loaned to the appropriate borrower's year group. 350 new titles have been added to the library stocks in the last 12 months and with new seating areas, displays and dynamic shelving, every student should be able to find something that will pique their interest!



Through our library system, 'Libresoft Librarian', students can search for books, check and renew their current loans and make reservation requests. Students may currently borrow 2 books at a time for a period of 14 school days and regular reminders about any overdue loans will be shared with students via their school email and their Learning Managers. Further information about competitions and events can be found at the library homepage: <https://sites.google.com/george-spencer.notts.sch.uk/library/home>

If students prefer e-books or audiobooks then our library **e-platform** is a fantastic resource offering further contemporary fiction and non-fiction titles that may not be available in hard copy in the library. Students can access this platform using their school network username and password and the e-platform app can be downloaded from all smartphone app stores. The e-platform website can be accessed here: <https://georgespencer.eplatform.co/>

If students need any help accessing books, the e-platform or would like advice on books that would suit their particular reading interests, they should see Ms Stevens in the library and she would be more than happy to help. She can also be contacted via email at: [Lstevens@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:Lstevens@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

### **Reading Opportunities at George Spencer**

There are further opportunities for students to get involved in our reading culture this term. These include:

- The Principal's Challenge - each form group has a series of reading challenges to complete this half term with prizes on offer for the best form group entries!
- Back to School Reading Zone Challenge - run by the library, students are challenged to complete at least 2 reading 'zone' challenges individually to encourage them to read different types of books and media.

We hope all students in Year 9 will make the most of these, and future opportunities for reading this year.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Furber  
Assistant Principal, Learning Experiences