



# QB Reading Manifesto

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Queensbridge is a Reading School. This means that we strive to read at every opportunity and in all subjects. We believe that this is the key to both academic and personal success.

## In our school you will see:

1. A thriving and well used library, run by our dedicated Reading Engagement Mentor, supporting pupils and championing competitions, rewards and incentives;
2. Every KS3 pupil and many KS4 pupils carrying a reading book in their bag, which they will be able to talk about;
3. Access to books for all pupils;
4. Wider reading encouraged across the curriculum;
5. Staff 'Reading Champions' across all disciplines;
6. A dedicated reading hour for all Year 7 pupils;
7. Reading age testing for all pupils to monitor progress and impact;
8. A strongly linked reading and PSHE curriculum for all Year 7 and 8 pupils;
9. A range of engaging reading groups;
10. Exciting 'World Book Day' celebrations;
11. Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time;
12. Transition reading projects and summer reading challenges;
13. Guidance for parents in how to support their child with reading.



## 1

# A thriving and well used library

Reading is at the heart of QB which is why our library is located at the center of the school. Celebrating and promoting reading for pleasure, the library is the place to come. We have a diverse and up to date range of books from the latest must read YA novels, to much-loved classics, graphic novels and fascinating non-fiction titles. Our pupils are inspired and engaged. Our well-stocked library, including books, ebooks and audiobooks, allows us to cultivate a love of reading and nurture our pupils' enthusiasm, enquiry and empathy. We enjoy author visits to school, as well as going out on trips to meet authors and visiting local libraries in our city.

Open before and after school and during social times, QB library is a bustling and creative space with areas to study and read. Come and explore, discover new books, join reading groups, enter competitions and catch up on homework! The library is fully staffed with experts who can help you to choose your next read, and support you with your studies.

During the Autumn term, every Year 7 pupil takes part in a library induction. This includes learning about the different genres in the library (we tailor our genres to our pupils), empowering everyone to pick the right book for them.

Our library is a space where every member of the school community can access information, and is a safe space for all pupils to think, create, share and grow.



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Every KS3 pupil and many KS4 pupils carrying a reading book in their bag, which they will be able to talk about



Staff and pupils will proudly talk about what they're reading in their leisure time. A reading book is part of KS3 pupils' required school equipment, and will be read during form time at varying points of the week. By carrying a book, pupils are more likely to dip into it at social time, on the bus, or after school in one of our cozy library spots. This can be a book from home, a library book, or a loan from a fellow QB reader. Year 7 pupils are treated to a free 'BookBuzz' novel every year!

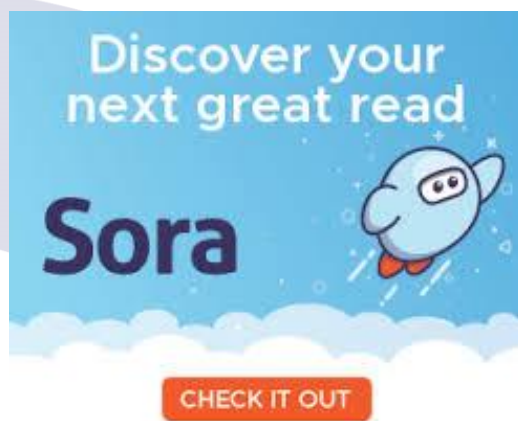
### 3

## Access to books for all pupils

There is a wealth of fabulous books, magazines, graphic novels and text books available in our library. Our catalogue is arranged by genre to allow choosing and browsing to be as easy and inspiring as possible.

Everyone at Queensbridge has access to over 2,500 quality ebooks and audiobooks. There is an enormous range on offer in a specially curated secondary school package, specifically designed for KS3 and KS4 readers. We are always looking to find ways to engage pupils with reading.

Pupils can keep track of their own reading and achievements through an easy to use app which can be used on smartphones, tablets and computers at home. Our Reading Engagement Mentor monitors how pupils are getting on, ensuring that online rewards also result in school recognition (and maybe a prize!) Pupils can choose award-winning fiction, non-fiction, audio books, and GCSE set texts, in a huge variety of text types, genres and topics.



[Login easily through the Links section of Edulink](#)

## 4

## Wider reading encouraged across the curriculum

At Queensbridge, we believe that wider reading (exploration beyond the classroom), is the key to harnessing curiosity, problem solving and critical thinking. Through wider reading, pupils are encouraged to value what's beyond the exam specification, and enjoy subjects for their own sake. It is our responsibility to expose pupils to a range of diverse, challenging, aspirational fiction and non-fiction texts from high-quality, professional sources so that they are equipped for rigorous GCSE exams and prepared for lifelong learning. Therefore, we are committed to wider reading happening across school to support the literacy, academic progress and personal development of our pupils.

How does wider reading support literacy, academic progress and personal development?

- **Super-Curricular** → Pupils are encouraged to go beyond what is prescribed, which allows them to demonstrate creativity, curiosity and initiative.
- **Deepening and Enhancing** → Pupils are actively contextualising subjects, which helps to provide insight and develop critical thinking.
- **Independence and Resilience** → Pupils are empowered to take responsibility for their own learning and to recognise the benefits of struggle, which ensures that they are prepared to tackle challenges.
- **Persistence and Stamina** → Pupils are engaged in a reading practice that requires sustained commitment and involves prolonged concentration, which produces confidence and adaptability.



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## Staff Reading Champions across all disciplines

The Queensbridge Reading Champions comprise a team of teaching staff who are responsible for promoting reading in every department across our school. We recognise that pupils are infinitely more inspired to read widely when it is endorsed and modelled by teachers of all subjects.

- Reading Champions work closely with the Reading Engagement Mentor to shape our school's positive reading culture. They raise the profile of reading as a fundamental skill and advocate reading for enjoyment and personal growth in every subject.
- Reading Champions meet frequently to share good reading practice, explore new reading approaches and discuss ways of promoting whole-school reading.
- Reading Champions are responsible for designing subject-specific reading resources and implementing a range of high-impact reading strategies in their department.
- Reading Champions foster collaboration and forge cross-curricular links.







## 7

## Reading age testing for all pupils to monitor progress and impact

Queensbridge is committed to closing gaps between pupils' chronological and reading ages. This is mapped into our school strategy and informs staff's planning and assessment for learning. All of our pupils sit a reading age test at the beginning of their time with us at Queensbridge, allowing us to support them to find the best reading material both inside and outside of the classroom. Our pedagogy across all departments aims to improve pupils' reading ages, to both close gaps, and promote challenge.

Reading age data is used by all staff to know how best to support the progress of our pupils. Through the New Group Reading Tests (NGRT), we are able to understand students' ability to decode what they read, as well as their levels of comprehension.



## 8

## A strongly linked reading and PSHE curriculum for all Year 7 and 8 pupils

Toolkit For Life (TFL) is an area of school where pupils explore health and wellbeing, relationships and the wider world (PSHE). With form tutors, students use high quality journalism to discuss a range of topics which prepare them for life beyond school. These sessions are purposeful, engaging and empowering for our pupils as they move through childhood and prepare for the complex adult world.

Our year 7 and 8 pupils also enjoy TFL+ which is a unified curriculum of PSHE and reading. These two essential parts of school are symbiotic and students read novels that are linked to the PSHE programme of study. The novels allow pupils to connect, with empathy, to characters who embody the content that they are covering. This is one example of how we look to bring reading into every fibre of our school's fabric.



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## A range of engaging reading groups

You will see reading groups meeting to enjoy books together. There is a vast range on offer; from the chaotic absurdness of David Walliams, the latest YA fiction, short story club, science fiction groups, Harry Potter magic, Carnegie review groups, and Orwellian cynics. There is a reading group for everyone. Pupils enjoy reading with peers and staff, discussing thoughts (often over a cheeky biscuit), making friends and winding down with likeminded students.



## Exciting 'World Book Day' celebrations

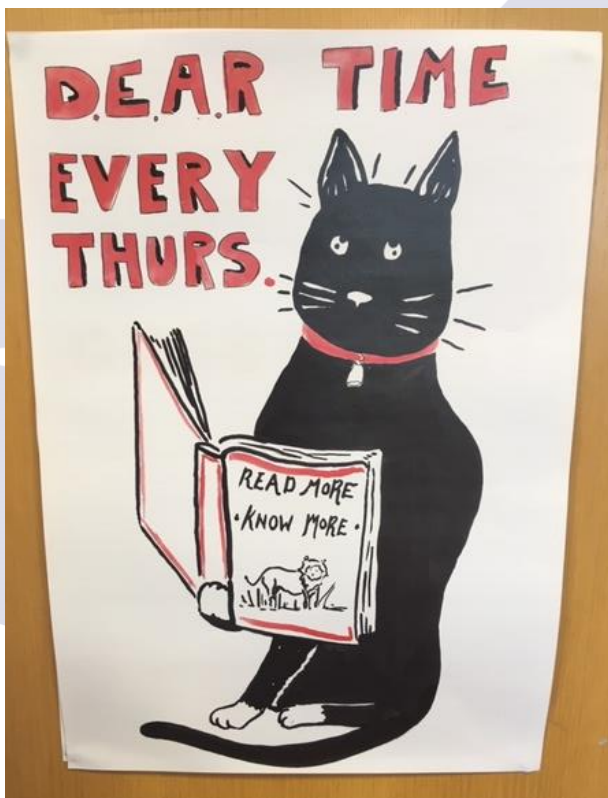
The celebration of books and stories is something that we take very seriously by being very silly! Every year we look for new ways to have a day of fun and reading. We have enjoyed fancy dress competitions, murder mystery challenges, clue finding missions, masked readers, student created audiobooks, book tasting sessions and quizzes to name just a few. All staff get involved in the fun; as a reading school we look forward to this day all year!



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## Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time

Form times on Tuesdays (KS4) Thursdays (KS3) is dedicated to reading. This is a calm and peaceful time for students to prepare for the day, and spend some quality time immersed in their reading book. Form groups spend other days talking about what they're reading and swapsies often ensue. Form tutors read along with their form in silence, and this is a protected time where we encourage free and independent choice (with guidance for those who just can't make up their mind!) This time helps all pupils to identify as readers as they build in confidence and develop positive habits through collectively modelled reading behaviours.



## Transition reading projects and summer reading challenges

Time away from school in the holidays means extra time for reading! What's better than a cosy read over the winter break, or a fun story in the sunshine over the summer holidays? We prepare all pupils for time away from school by encouraging them to loan a book or ebook from the library. In the weeks leading up to a holiday, we talk about the latest YA (Young Adult) releases in form time, and have conversations about what we all plan to read.

There are reviews and reading competitions that pupils can engage with over the holidays to keep focused, and the library's Twitter account (@QBridgeLibrary) are updated frequently with recommendations and reading news.

Pupils moving from primary school to join us in Year 7 are always asked to take part in a Summer Reading Challenge which they are rewarded for in September. The range of fun reading challenges encourages pupils to think creatively about what they read, setting the tone for the kind of school that they will be joining.



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## Guidance for parents in how to support their child with reading.

The National Literacy Trust tells us that the second most influential person in a child's reading success is their teacher. First, is their primary carer at home. This means that we do everything we can to support reading at home as well as in school, empowering parents with the skills that they need to develop positive reading behaviours. Reading is vital for cultural capital, character development, and acquiring 21st Century skills, so we believe that it is the best habit to harness at home.

Reading for pleasure delivers enormous benefits for children of all ages. It builds reading and literacy confidence as well as influencing children's health and wellbeing, future academic achievement and adult life chances. Evidence shows that families can play a key role in helping develop a reading for pleasure habit, but it's not always easy to motivate children who lack confidence or enthusiasm for reading.

Cultivating room for reading at home and providing aspirational reading resources is something that families may need support with, and this is where our guidance comes in.

There are always staff on hand to talk through any concerns you may have about reading with your child.

We aim to support families with our termly bulletin, 'The Word: Supporting your Child with Reading to Learn', which gives top tips, expert opinions, recommendations and reading news.



# Ten Top Tips for parents or carers

1. Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested if they've picked it out themselves;
2. Read alongside your child. This might mean that you read the same thing, or it may mean that you both read independently at the same time. Don't worry if you don't feel like the strongest reader. Your child won't judge and will love spending time with you;
3. Bring interesting reading materials into your home where you can. This can be books, magazines, newspapers, articles and pamphlets;
4. Turn off the TV, radio and computer. Put phones in another room if you can. It's easier for both of you to enjoy reading without any other distractions
5. Ask questions and talk about what they're reading. Books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and remember there's no right or wrong answers!
6. Encourage reading aloud together. This practise doesn't need to stop now that your child is in secondary school! You'll both enjoy it and hearing words read aloud is proven to improve children's confidence and fluency.
7. Give books as presents. Within the family and with friends! You can always borrow it when they've read it too!
8. Visit the local library together. They need our support and it's always fun choosing new books to read. It's completely free! Keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops - children love meeting their favourite authors. Foyles Bookshop in Grand Central Station have lots of brilliant events!
9. Encourage children to carry a book at all times. In school and on family days out. That way, they'll never be bored. This is something you can do, too! The more that they see you as a reader, the better.
10. Have a bookshelf at home. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too. You don't have to spend a fortune on these. There are some great deals in charity shops (and we're lucky to have an Oxfam bookshop in Kings Heath and Moseley!)