

Reading at Chenderit School

Chenderit School prioritises a vibrant reading culture by embedding literacy into its core school identity and expanding standard curriculum boundaries. We treat reading and personal growth as critical drivers to improve students' cultural capital and social wellbeing.

Whole school reading initiatives:

Transition- Y7 students have an induction reading lesson to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). Year 7 students are encouraged to have a reading book with them in their bags. When students join our school they complete the Access Reading Test to establish baseline reading ages and starting points. The LRC is open before, during and after school. Some students are student librarians.

Stop, Drop and Read- 6 calendared events during the school year where the whole school pauses and become engrossed in reading for pleasure.

Read 16 before 16- students are encouraged to track their progress through our flagship reading challenge.

National Events: We celebrate National Storytelling week, National Poetry Day and World Book Day. Last year we celebrated World Book Day with the 'Chenderit Masked Reader'. Students also took part in a tutor group Reading World Cup.

Reading challenges- We 'went all in' for the 2026 National year of Reading and share holiday reading challenges with our students.

Reading in curriculum areas: Each department prioritises reading and supports disciplinary reading

Reading bookcases: We have multiple 'lend and borrow' reading bookcases around the school.

Tutor time reading at KS3- We are developing a Chenderit Canon of Reading for pleasure books and students are reading whole novels in form time.

Students needing additional support with reading

In addition to the initiatives above, some students need additional support with their reading.

KS3 reading buddies- Y7-8 students are supported with 6th form reading mentors and TAs. Students read a text, for pleasure, and have support with phonics, fluency and comprehension.

Read Write Inc- Some students need additional support with phonics when they first join. These students follow the English curriculum and Read Write Inc Fresh Start.

Accessibility

RNIB book share- We are part of the RNIB book share meaning students with visual impairment have access to a wide range of texts in appropriate formats.

Our LRC have a series of 'high interest, lower reading age' texts to engage students. A lot of these titles are published by Barrington Stoke.

Built-in accessibility tools help too- Read Aloud in Microsoft Office is useful for some students.

Reading pens- We have reading pens that students can book out and borrow.