

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

Albert Einstein

Literacy is a fundamental human right, the foundation for lifelong learning. Having a secure level of literacy transforms lives, from improving health and relationships as well as academic success.

Our world is dominated by the written word, both online and in print. This means we can only contribute and participate actively if we can read and write sufficiently well. Literacy is about people's ability to function in society as private individuals, active citizens, employees or parents. Literacy is about people's self-esteem, their interaction with others, their health and employability. Ultimately, literacy is about whether a society is fit for the future. For these reasons and more, it is why, we at JFS prioritise this key area.

Students who read for pleasure are likely to do better in all subject areas. Reading improves students' ability to take on new information and concepts across the curriculum. The simple fact is that the more children read, the better they become at reading and reading, by way of books, magazines or websites, exposes children to new vocabulary. There is also a significant correlation between improved vocabulary and success in Science for example. Even when they don't understand every new word, they absorb something from the context that may deepen their understanding of it the next time the word is encountered.

Moreover, and perhaps most importantly, reading can open up new worlds and enrich lives. Given the wealth of available resources such as the internet, libraries, schools, bookstores, e-readers, if our students read well and if they see reading as a source of information, then for the rest of their lives they will have access to all of the accumulated knowledge of mankind, access to all of the great writers and ideas of the past and present, and access that provides the gateway to further academic conversations.

Through books, our students can also learn about people and places from other parts of the world, improving their understanding of and concern for all of humanity. Through stories and novels, new experiences, characters and ideas can be encountered. Stories can free up imaginations and ensure hours of a different, richer kind of entertainment.

JFS aims to promote a school-wide love of reading. The book list available on this website is a mere starting point and I would add that there are further book lists available so if your child wants further variety, please encourage him/her to see their class teacher who will allow them to choose an alternative book list. To further aid this, all English teachers will be setting a weekly reading homework of a minimum of an hour a week in Years 7 to 10. Teachers will be monitoring this, but we are also asking parents to sign and monitor that this has been actioned. In addition, we will be starting a programme for all students during tutor time which aims to enable students to read about a variety of topics from current world events, to wider themes such as human rights and the ethics of reality TV.

In the end, encouraging your child to read is the best single activity you can do to help them succeed. I hope you'll support us in ensuring that every child at JFS is an active reader.

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS



<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>



<http://www.renlearn.co.uk/reading/secondary/>



<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>