

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School

23rd January 2020



Headteacher:
Mr Anthony Corish
B.A, M.A, P.G.C.E, N.P.Q.H

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School
Edinburgh Drive, Ickenham
UB10 8QY
01895 679400
office@douaymartyrs.co.uk
www.douaymartyrs.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

The English Department at The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of us as a Reading School. As part of this key National Curriculum focus on reading, we invest curriculum time one lesson out of six a fortnight to take the Year 7 and 8 students to our St Catherine Library where they take part in both the Accelerated Reader and Star Reading programmes. The objective of our focus on reading is for students to achieve their potential at GCSE as all the evidence shows that the more students read and understand, the higher the grades they achieve. Our focus on reading allows students to broaden their vocabulary, while exposing them to different genres of literature and helping them with their creativity and imagination: all skills that will be required at GCSE.

Reading as a Homework

The importance that we place on reading is reflected in our Department policy of setting reading as a homework once a fortnight, with written homework on the alternative week. The reading homework is based on the result of the Star Reading test that each student takes three times a year. This establishes both a reading age and reading level, so students are expected to select a book from the library that matches their reading level and provides an appropriate challenge for each individual student. The students have two weeks to read the book they selected from their level before they need to complete a multiple choice computer comprehension test for their next library lesson. In addition to homework, the first ten minutes of each English lesson is dedicated to students reading their library books and completing the reading journals which allows them to record key events, characters and plot development which provides them with revision prior to completing their quizzes.

PTO

How do we measure effort in Reading Homework?

The English Department places as much importance on reading homework as we do on written homework, as we know the students who make the most progress with their reading levels, progress in their overall English levels. Detentions are issued for non-completion of reading homework and this is shown when students are unable to reach the pass mark on the computerised multiple choice comprehension test. Providing students have completed their reading homework and used the ten minutes at the beginning of each English lesson to read and record their library reading book that is selected from their level, they will be able to successfully demonstrate this reading by achieving the AR company's nationally determined pass mark in their library lesson. Our most successful students last year improved their reading ages by over three years during the academic year and this progress was reflected in the improvement of their written English assessments during the same period.

The aim of the English Department is for each child to reach their full potential and we hope that you will support us by reinforcing the importance of the reading homework and encouraging your child to make progress in English.

Please let us know if you have any question or if we can provide any further guidance.

Yours faithfully,

T Duffy and S Powell

Miss Powell and Mrs Duffy
Key Stage 3 English Coordinators
English Primary School Liaison