



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

Thursday 20th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Reading Challenge: Rat by Patrice Lawrence

As a school we have been focusing in lessons and within the English curriculum on literacy and reading as key tools for pupils learning and engagement in all academic areas as well as social skills as they prepare for careers and studies beyond their life here at Abbey Park. Following a successful pilot of a year group reading project with year 7 we are excited to now launch this with year 8 and 9 as we continue to invest and equip pupils with a range of texts to develop a pleasure for reading and increase vocabulary and confidence in literacy skills.

Reading is a fundamental tool for all of us and is a skill that we all need to continue to develop. Reading for pleasure is a tool for:

- Enjoyment
- Reducing anxiety and allowing yourself to learn as well as escape in a book that captures you
- Developing reflection skills – allowing you to reflect on topics from a different angle.

Year 9 Reading Challenge: Rat

This term year 9 will be given a copy of 'Rat' by Patrice Lawrence as part of their school library book allocation. 'Rat' is a moving story of community, loneliness and unexpected friendship. Join Al on his journey as he processes all emotions but within it develops resilience which he will use further into his adult life.

When your child collects their book there is a reading summary to help consider the book and where possible we would encourage parents and guardians to read with your child together and / or individually and then discuss the themes of the books as this can really engage readers in searching and discussing the detail and how it relates to our lives today.

This week your child will receive the following in their English lesson:

1. A copy of 'Rat' – this will be a library issue to be returned at the end of the challenge.
2. A copy of the reading guide – you may use and write on this. It is for your own reflections and use as a family.

This is a very exciting project and also links into the use of the Go Read App where pupils are tracking their reading and showing evidence of how they are developing their skills as well as reviewing texts that they have read. Each term new books will be issued, so your child will have this text until the start of term 4 when they will return 'Rat' and then collect the next text.

We hope you enjoy this terms reading challenge,

Mrs Hunter

Vice Principal



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Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

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