

**Headteacher:** Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

SIR/GBE

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Dear parents/ carers,

Proficiency in reading, along with developed fluency, literacy and numeracy skills allows students to comprehend more; access more; to absorb more – which means that these skills are key in supporting students to engage more in school and consequently perform better. Therefore, moving forward we are introducing Monday spelling and numeracy tests for Years 7 and 8, and key word definition tests and numeracy tests for Years 9 and 10; this will take place during form time in order to support with students' further development of these key skills and provide additional support to students in accessing learning across the curriculum.

Further to this we have launched 'Root of the Week', word roots or root words inform the simple meaning of a word. The majority of root words need a prefix and/ or suffix to create a stand-alone word, for example: the Latin root word 'aud' - meaning "to hear or listen" is not a word on its own, but it is the root of words such as audio, audible, or auditorium. Some roots can be stand-alone words, for example: the Greek root 'scope' meaning 'viewing instrument' in the words microscope and telescope. The 'Root of the Week' will also be discussed during Monday's form session in order to further support students' understanding and knowledge of vocabulary.

As per our usual requests, please support our young learners at home by dedicating 10 minutes a day to an activity which encompasses reading or numeracy. Supporting your child to read for pleasure gives them better life chances and future options. This is a fact. It might not appear like a significant thing to some, but education research proves that reading for pleasure can be associated to a child's achievements and success throughout the whole of their academic experience and beyond. Reading allows children to visit new worlds and scenarios, opening their eyes and minds to lives and experiences beyond their own and encouraging their imaginations and creativity to grow! Further to this their understanding and knowledge of vocabulary will develop.

Below are a few ideas for supporting your child to read, and develop their communication skills:

- Set aside just 10 minutes a day to form a reading routine.
- Read in front of and with children, display that reading is for everyone.
- Activate the subtitles when watching tv programmes and films.
- Allow children to read things which are of interest to them (autobiographies, comics, manga, graphic novels, newspapers etc.)
- Set reading challenges, with rewards.
- Join a library (it's free!)



Shenley Academy & Sixth Form,  
Shenley Lane, Birmingham, B29 4HE

**T:** 0121 464 5191

**F:** 0121 464 3711

**E:** shenley.enquiry@E-ACT.org.uk

**W:** www.shenleyacademy.E-ACT.org.uk

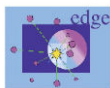
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More ideas can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/284286/reading\\_for\\_pleasure.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284286/reading_for_pleasure.pdf)

Kind Regards,

Mr S Richardson  
Assistant Headteacher



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