



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

July 2025

Dear Parents,

Re: Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The MTS English Department is delighted to announce the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage our pupils to develop and maintain a love of reading over the summer holiday. What better companion by the pool than a book in the hand? What better way to develop the mind and those qualities associated with the heart?

The challenge is open to pupils currently in the Lower School and to those joining us in September. Each year group has been given a slightly different challenge, which range from creative projects inspired by reading, to class presentations and public readings, to creating Booktok videos and becoming a reading celebrity among the MTS community.

Boys in the Fourth Form are particularly encouraged to explore different types of reading material in preparation for starting their GCSEs. They should make good use of the excellent Middle School Reading List available to them, which is attached to this letter.

Every pupil is expected to participate in this challenge, which includes reading a minimum of three books, either of different authors or genres. With nine weeks of holiday, however, we would expect pupils to read significantly more and really set out to impress their new teacher in September. The deadline for the completion of the challenge will be Monday 15th September 2025. The Summer Reading Challenge will form the first piece of assessment in English, your son receiving a level which will contribute towards the first formal grading session of the new academic year.

There is an additional **optional** competition "Inspired by Books" for those pupils who feel moved to produce something creative related to what they have read, such as artwork, animation or musical composition. This will be judged separately by the Library and is not part of the compulsory challenge.

The correlation between pupils who are active readers and those who achieve highly in English at all levels, including public examination, is well known. Our greatest wish, however, is that every pupil at Merchant Taylors' School discovers and nurtures a love of reading, in whatever form that may take; for it is a lifelong joy.

Yours,

Matthew Hilton-Dennis, Head of English

Amanda South, Senior Librarian