



Star

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assalaamu Alaikum / Peace be with you

Reading plays a crucial role in supporting your child's learning and development and their understanding of the subjects they are studying. It is important for all our pupils to expand their vocabulary and improve their writing, language and comprehension skills. Reading a wide variety of books from an assortment of different authors will help our pupils to grow into powerful and knowledgeable communicators.

Reading and the pursuit of knowledge is an integral part of our faith. The very first word revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) from the Almighty was "Iqra," which means "read" or "recite." As well as being a gateway to learning and understanding, reading also helps young people to develop their social and cultural capital by giving them access to new ideas and experiences and encouraging them to empathise with people and characters from all walks of life.

Star is introducing a series of exciting new initiatives to promote the joys and benefits of reading to all our pupils. As part of this endeavour, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our Star Readers initiative. The Star Readers initiative provides a lists of recommended reading books across a number of genres and disciplines. The books are challenging, interesting and varied. They have been selected to give pupils windows into other people's worlds, promote discussion and build reading resilience.

In our first publication, *Star Readers Secondary Edition*, we have searched through the best of contemporary and classic young adult literature to provide a list of recommended and age-appropriate reading for each year group. We will be supplementing the Star Readers series with an additional list of Islamic faith-based texts in the coming months, IA.

Your child has been provided with a copy of the Star Readers recommended reading list to bring home with them and we hope you will get involved with the initiative by encouraging them to read as many of the books as possible. If you already own some of the books featured on the reading list, we would be grateful if you could donate any used copies to the school to enable other children to enjoy them.

To monitor pupils' progress and development, there will be a special Star Readers Awards Ceremony organised in each school to celebrate pupils' commitment to reading. All pupils who read at least 10 books from the recommended reading list over the course of the academic year will be awarded a prestigious Star Readers certificate.

Thank you for your support with this important initiative.

Yours faithfully,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE

Chief Executive, Star Academies