



The John Warner School • Stanstead Road • Hoddesdon • Hertfordshire • EN11 0QF  
Telephone: 01992 462889 • Facsimile: 01992 470679 • E-mail: admin@johnwarner.herts.sch.uk  
Website: www.johnwarner.herts.sch.uk • Headteacher: Jeremy M. Scott

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

## Re. Year 8 Reading Focus

I will be writing to you over the next few weeks with some key changes that will be implemented for Year 8 as we move into this half term. Following on from some adjustment to our pupils return to school we have noticed the impact that COVID lockdown has had on many of our pupils and their reading ability.

I am sure you will agree a good foundation in reading is the underpinning of allowing our pupils to access a breadth of the curriculum and give the right tools to access learning. At present we have some concerns over reading and need to have an opportunity to identify the gaps and ensure interventions are put in place to support all pupils.

As such we are going to be focussing this half term on reading. In order to ensure there is consistency across all pupils in Year 8 we will be asking that pupils start **all** of their lessons, every day by reading a book they bring from home. This is a task that pupils are used to doing in English but we will be doing so in all lessons moving forward from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Students will need to ensure they have a book with them every day and as soon as they arrive at their lesson the expectation will be for pupils to be seated, book out, reading before the formal lesson begins. The pastoral team will be completing learning walks to ensure that all pupils are behind our initiative and see the benefit as we move forward.

Please talk with your child about this new 'non-negotiable' for lessons and ensure that they bring a reading book into school that excites them and offers them the opportunity to develop their use of language and imagination.

In the words of Dr Seuss-

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go".

Yours faithfully

**Jennifer Pope**

Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 3