

Wednesday 8th July, 2020.



# Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the most pleasing aspects of my time as Principal has been being able to establish a school library. Reading is such an essential part of learning and a pupil's wider literacy skills play a huge role in ensuring their success in school and beyond. For example, research tells us that reading or being read to at an early age is fundamental to the development of a child's vocabulary; and it's estimated that the difference between reading and not reading might equate to a 1 million word gap in a child's vocabulary.

Whilst we have included additional opportunities for pupils to read in class through subject specific material, we also want pupils to foster a love of reading as we know how fundamental this is to their development. Installing a school library with titles specifically related to a secondary age audience, that refresh on annual basis based on reading trend data, was an important step for the school and part of our drive to increase academic standards.

It has been rewarding seeing the library packed out at lunch time during enrichment sessions and also to see families making the most of the our family reading sessions after school.

So naturally we're disappointed that pupils haven't got access to our library at the moment and given the guidance issued by the government in relation to the mixing of pupils and sharing of resources, it's unlikely that pupils will be able to use our library in the coming weeks and months. We're thrilled therefore to be able to inform you that we've secured a digital library resource for pupils to access. This service available on any computer, tablet or mobile device allows pupils to access over 1500 age appropriate titles.

We're mindful that pupils might not be able to access books for a number of reasons at the moment and so this service will enable pupils to continue to read, develop their literacy skills and enhance their vocabulary over the remaining weeks of school and during the summer. To access the service pupils simply need to head to the following website <https://soraapp.com/library/uksecondary> and select our school from the list. To login pupils need to use their login details for their school office365 account i.e. their email address and password that they would use to access Office 365, Teams and their school email account.

Pupils can also download the Sora app on to a device to access their digital library.

Over the coming weeks the library team will be sharing resources through Teams to help support pupils with their reading, to encourage engagement and to help them develop a passion for reading. If you do encounter any problems or have any questions about the service please email [remotelarning@penkethhigh.org](mailto:remotelarning@penkethhigh.org).

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.

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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

Penketh High School, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BY

Tel: 01925 722298 Fax: 01925 723812 e-mail: [principal@penketh.warrington.sch.uk](mailto:principal@penketh.warrington.sch.uk) Website: [www.penkethhighschool.co.uk](http://www.penkethhighschool.co.uk)

Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH

