



October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to write and inform you of the **Harrogate High School DEAR programme** which is being rolled out across Year 7 and 8 this half term. DEAR is our acronym for **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop a love of reading for all readers, hence improving their whole school progress and achievement. Students who read and engage with written texts on a daily basis for 20 minutes or more secure better educational opportunities and can earn significantly more over a lifetime than those who do not.

The **Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)** programme runs each half term. Students in **Year 7 and 8** will experience a different genre of books to build experience and familiarity.

Half Term	Y7	Y8
AUTUMN 1/ AUTUMN 2	Comedy Central	Adventure
SPRING 1	Explorer	Crime
SPRING 2	International Globetrotters	Revolutionaries
SUMMER 1	Mystery	Poetry & Historical Fiction
SUMMER 2	Sport	Comedy

Every week, students will receive a **Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) lesson**. This will replace an existing lesson on their timetable on a rolling programme:

Week 1: Monday lesson 1
Week 2: Monday lesson 2



Week 6: Tuesday Lesson 1, and so on.

Their usual teacher will deliver their DEAR lesson during that period. Each lesson over the half term will focus upon a different extract from the selection of books from the half term's genre, for half the lesson. Students will explore the genre through the extracts covered over the weeks, widening their reading experience. The second half of the lesson will provide opportunity for independent reading of the book they have chosen. It





is essential they have a reading book of their own; they will have opportunities to visit our library if they need to borrow a book.

Students can read more books from the half term's reading genre as copies of all titles will be available to borrow from the Library. They can also read books from other routes in addition to their chosen book for the half term, again borrowing from the Library.

Around the school we will be encouraging students to read widely, and I am sure this is something that you will want to do at home too. Please support your child by asking them about the book they are reading. The books from this half term's genre are listed below for your reference.

<u>Y7 Book Choices:</u>
Tom Gates: Dog Zombies Rule, Liz Pichon
The Boy at The Back of the Class, Onjali Rauf
Witch Watch, Sibeal Pounder
The Ice Monster, David Walliams
The Falcon's Malteser, Anthony Horowitz
<u>Y8 Book Choices:</u>
Boy 87, Ele Fountain
The House with Chicken Legs, Sophie Anderson
The Colour of the Sun, David Almond
Around the World in Eighty Days, Jules Verne
Where the World Ends, Geraldine McCaughrean

If you have any questions, please contact reception and your query will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J English
Deputy Headteacher

