



September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the success of tutor time reading in Years 7, 8 and 9 last year, we are really excited to be launching a new initiative on a whole school basis across Years 7-11. The Seaford Head Read-Aloud and Oracy Programme is about to begin, and we want to tell you all about it.

- When?** During two mornings a week in tutor registration time. One morning will be dedicated to reading, and the other to speaking and listening.
- Where?** In tutor groups.
- How?** Tutors read to their tutees, who have their own copy of the texts, before completing interactive or written tasks around what they have read. Tutors facilitate pair and group discussion.
- What?** Students will get to experience reading and oracy outside of the curriculum; they will explore a plethora of various different texts ranging from articles, short stories, TED talks, extracts from novels, podcasts, speeches, song lyrics, poems and so much more. Texts have been selected carefully to ensure that the range of narratives address important topics and offer thought-provoking challenge.
- Why?** Not only is there growing evidence in the field of education to suggest that the act of reading is one of the best ways in which academic performance can be improved over the long-term, students also have an entitlement to experience some of the best and most exciting works of literature during their time at school. Oracy is also the number one employability skill, and is essential for students so they can effectively communicate. Most importantly, we hope this programme will help foster a love of reading in our students, enrich their cultural capital, and make them confident, eloquent speakers.

### Key benefits of reading and talking together:

1. It is a social experience that builds a sense of empathy, community, identity and belonging.
2. Regular modelling of fluent, passionate reading delivered by adults will improve reading and speaking abilities among our students.
3. Exposure to countless words and phrases not found in everyday dialogue broadens students' vocabulary and communication skills.

## Seaford Learning Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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4. Coverage of a wealth of themes and concepts are valuable for personal development and to foster social awareness and understanding.

5. On-going improvement in independent reading corresponds to improved academic success, social and emotional skills, and personal well-being.

**Some strategies for supporting your child with reading and oracy at home:**

**Be interested**      Ask about the different texts on a weekly basis – *plot, characters, themes, ideas, predictions.*

**Be sensitive**      Ensure students have ample opportunity to discuss delicate/difficult themes that may arise.

**Be aware**      Feel free to purchase books around similar topics, or a book that your child is currently reading independently.

**Be relaxed**      Offer a calm, stress-free environment that cultivates enthusiasm.

**Be an example**      Let your child see you read - it is a powerful inspiration and a celebration of the enjoyment reading widely and for pleasure can bring.

We are certain that this exciting new initiative will support your child in making personal and academic progress, no matter where they are in their Seaford Head learning journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L. Johnson

Head of Literacy