



Dear Parent/Carer

14th September 2018

As the new Library Resource Manager, I would like to tell you of some proposed changes to the current running of the library.

At QMGS, we believe wholeheartedly in the many benefits that everyone can enjoy through taking time out to read for pleasure. Indeed, recent research by The Reading Agency shows that regular reading increases empathy, improves relationships with others, reduces the symptoms of depression and improves mental health and wellbeing throughout life. We therefore wish to encourage our students to read as much and as widely as possible; the School expects every child to read for at least half an hour per day.

It has been the custom in recent years to implement a system of fining students if they fail to return books to the library. As a mark of my trust and faith in the integrity of the students at this school, and to encourage greater use of the library, I am going to put this system of fines on hold. This will initially be for a trial period of one term. However, if after this time it becomes apparent that books are not being returned to the library, the fines will (reluctantly on my part) have to be reinstated.

Students are currently allowed to borrow up to three books for two weeks; they can, of course, renew the books if they need to. After this time, students will be reminded that they need to bring the books back. If books are still not returned or renewed, behaviour points may be issued, in line with the School's behaviour policy on ignoring staff instructions. After a period of two weeks, it will be assumed that the book has been lost and a request will be made for the student to pay the full cost for a replacement.

As I am currently missing over 150 books that were borrowed at the end of last school year, can I ask that you please hunt around at home and return them. This is an amnesty: no fines and no behaviour points for anything received by the end of September - I just need them back. As I'm sure you will appreciate, many of our most popular books are often requested by several students and it is unfair on those waiting if books are simply left languishing in bags and bedrooms!

We know that many of our students already thoroughly enjoy reading. We hope that more reluctant readers will now be more inclined to make use of our library facilities and will feel encouraged and inspired to read, both for academic purposes and, more importantly, for pleasure.

Requests for particular books from students are welcomed, and I will do my best to ensure we continue to maintain, and increase, our stock of classic and modern literature, to ensure the students have access to interesting, relevant, challenging and enjoyable books. We also have a selection of resources available in other media, including audio books, DVDs and we are looking to increase our use of eBooks.

Our library is a well-resourced, welcoming and positive place for all. I trust that, with the support of staff, students, parents and carers, as well as seeing an increase in borrowing, reading and enjoying our books, we can continue to keep it as such.

Thank you,

Mrs H. Walker

Library Resource Manager