

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents, Carers, Students

## Reading Strategies at QEGS

QEGS reading challenges are designed with the aim of improving literacy through all year groups and promoting an all-school culture of reading. QEGS is very fortunate to have a well-stocked library with books to cover all interests and reading levels, both fiction and non-fiction titles. The Librarians, Mrs Roper and Mrs Bramwell are more than happy to suggest books to students for pleasure and to further subject knowledge.

### Reading initiatives linked with the English Department & QEGS Library:

Each month a different theme is displayed in the library with the 'killer reads' shown to students during form time at the start of each month:

- January - "Feel good" & Self Help
- February - Romance
- March - Sci-fi & Fantasy
- April - Eco-related
- May - Local and Community History
- June - Pride
- July- Poetry

What?	Who?	How?
Reading Warrior	Open to all students	Complete a book from the 'district' for that month (themed). Be entered on Go4S by form tutor under 'Reading Warrior'. Each half term 5 students will be randomly selected to receive a £10 book voucher. All reading done in interventions etc. will count towards 'Reading Warrior' submission.
Killer Reads	Open to all students	Read a book selected by the librarians as a 'killer read' (dyslexia friendly also available). These are designed to challenge the reader. Completion of the book = an extra entry into the 'Reading Warrior' raffle. Displays in the Library will show the theme/book titles to choose from.
Reading Mentors	Targeted buddy reading between students and staff/Sixth Form	Reading intervention for identified students (via Star programme) with student buddies.
Hunt the book bugs	Open to all students	Find a book bug in the book you are reading (from the library) and exchange it for a treat. You will need to show that you have read the book before treat received.
Pack Leader	Open to all students	Get 3 people to read a book you have recommended and get a prize! Collecting card and stamp from the Library.
Reading Shield	House with the most readers	At the end of each term, we will total the number of Reading Warrior entries for each House and publish the results. At the end of the year/Awards Night, a shield will be presented to the winning house.

## Star Reader Programme

Students in Year 7-9 are in the process of completing a Star Reader Test. This programme will enable the school to understand a child's reading score and put support, or challenge, in place for identified students.

## Form Time Reads

Each Year Group tutor has been assigned a book of focus to read and discuss the content over the coming months with their form – many students have checked out the spare copies from the library intrigued to find out what happens next.

- Year 7 - 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Raúf
- Year 8 - 'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q Raúf
- Year 9 - 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' by Mark Haddon
- Year 10 - 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas
- Year 11 - 'On the Come Up' by Angie Thomas

## After School/Co-curricular Opportunities

Join in the after-school sessions from 3.20pm to 4.20pm for the following:

Monday A week - **Y11 English revision**, in person, with Miss Hinojosa and Miss Aslam (Canteen)

Tuesday B week - **KS4/5 creative writing** with Mr Bateman and Miss Angris (Library)

Tuesday B week - **KS5 English Language** with Mr Hollins (Library)

Wednesday A and B week - **KS5 English Literature** with Mrs Shaw and Mr Stevenson (902)

Thursday A and B week - **Y11 English revision** on Teams with Mrs Brown

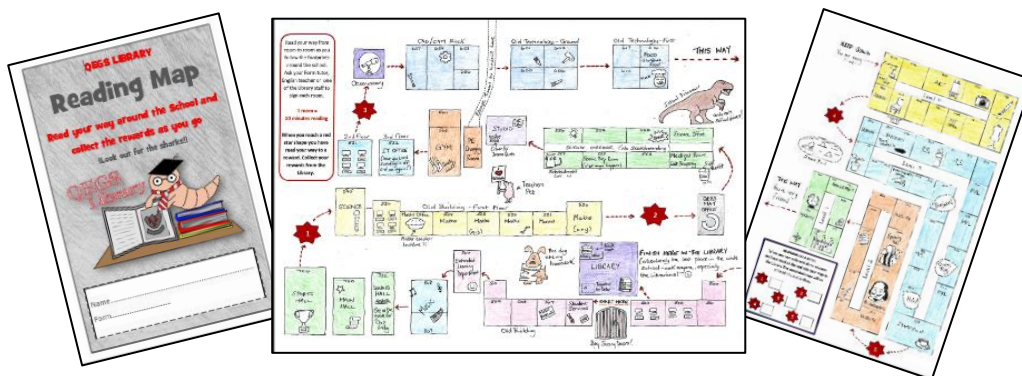
Thursday A week - **KS3 creative writing** with Miss Waterfall (207)

Thursday B week - **KS3 reading club** with Miss Fairbrother (Library)

## QEGS Library Reading Challenges

Year 7 students start their QEGS READS journey with the **Reading Map**.

The students can collect rewards as they read their way around the school. Every time they read, in form time or in a lesson, they can ask their teacher to initial the 'rooms' on the map - **1 room = 10 minutes reading**. Students can also ask the library staff to sign the maps when they read in the library. When all five rewards are collected, they must then read to the end to be entered into a prize draw. The librarians keep track of their progress as they read with a league table of rewards collected. There will be an award for the Form with the most completed maps at the end of the year.



Year 7 students received a free 'Bookbuzz' book to take home and keep, carefully selected by the BookTrust to encourage reading for pleasure. QEGS Library has a huge selection of amazing books to borrow for English lessons or form time and home reading.

The older year groups (8 to 13) can take on the QEGS READS challenge which has three levels – not unlike the Duke of Edinburgh Award:



The **Bronze Biography** level of the QEGS READS Award is the first level to complete. Students are required to read and review 5 books, each by a different author. When they have completed their reviews, they are invited to a Tea Party in the Library. The students also receive a badge, a very nice certificate, and merits.



The next is the **Silver Saga** level. This again involves reading and reviewing 5 books but the reading choices must include different genres and more challenging reads. To complete the level they must then write a persuasive letter to the next potential reader of one of the books they have reviewed. Students will be rewarded with merits as well as a badge and a certificate and yet more cake.



Finally, the **Golden Gazette** Award, students can choose a project involving reading and the library. It could be book promotion and display, being a reading buddy, hosting a lunchtime club or activity, a competition...the choices are endless. Good effort and commitment will be rewarded with vouchers to spend (and possibly, more cake!)

### 'Be a Friend to a Lonely Book'



New for this year – the Librarians have badged up some fantastic books which have not been borrowed from the library in weeks, months or maybe years. Students just need to look for the sticker on the side of the book, check out the book at the library desk for a chance to earn rewards for reading one of these lonely books.

The Library is open to students before the start of the school day, during lunch and from 3.20pm to 4pm as a space to read and relax, do homework and borrow/return books, plus computers to access for printing work. If you wish to contact for further information on recommended reads, please use [library@qegs.email](mailto:library@qegs.email) to contact the Librarians.

Yours faithfully

Miss B Angris  
Deputy English Curriculum Leader