

Principal:
Emma Robins



15 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of another busy half term I would like to thank you for your continued support. We do appreciate the key role you play in encouraging your child to fully engage with school. We would not be making the progress we are making without your input.

With some of the lifting of restrictions around Covid, this half term has allowed us to welcome visitors to school which has been very positive for everyone. From the BBC to the Royal Navy, we have enjoyed seeing our students engage with visitors and learn new skills. We have plenty more planned for the coming months including visits out of school. At the end of this week, you will receive a link to this half term's Graham Gazette which rounds up everything we have been doing so far this year.

We are working hard on reading at the minute. Research shows that reading for pleasure has a strong link to emotional and personal development. It also supports us in understanding ourselves, and others and their identities. There is some more information about the benefits of reading here: [Benefits of reading for pleasure](#)

As you may know, all Year 7 and Year 8 students have a library lesson once a week where they focus on developing reading. We are very lucky to have an amazing library at Graham School and an equally amazing librarian. As well as reading lessons, our library is open at lunchtimes and after school. All students are welcome to use the library and borrow books. The library also has computers and is a useful place to complete homework or other tasks. We have a very wide range of books available; there is something to suit everyone. We also have access to three electronic book and audio platforms - if your child is interested in this they should speak to Mrs Rawling (our librarian). Please encourage your child to borrow books to read for pleasure; perhaps you could read the same book and discuss it at home?

As national Covid restrictions cease on 24 February, we will also be relaxing our expectations. After the half term holiday, face coverings will no longer be required. However, if any student or member of staff chooses to wear one that will be fine. We will continue to encourage good hygiene in terms of sanitiser and hand washing. When we receive any more official guidance we will, of course, share it with you straight away.

When the half term break arrives I hope you can enjoy some quality time with your children. School reopens to students after half term on Wednesday 2 March at the normal time.

Yours faithfully

Emma Robins
Principal

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