

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of our school culture, we aim to promote and encourage reading for pleasure, not only to boost academic attainment but also to promote good mental health and empathy. We have a well-stocked school library that all members of the school community can use, as well as organising events such as author visits, reading groups and book quizzes. To reinforce the message that reading is for everyone, our school library includes many graphic novels and dyslexia-friendly accessible format books, including classic novels.

To welcome your child to our culture of reading, they have today been given a free book, *Boy 87*, by Ele Fountain. We will be discussing the book in September, mainly in form time and English lessons. Your child will not be tested in any way on their knowledge of the book, but we hope that they enjoy reading it over the summer holidays, whether independently or with you. Our intention is to create a reading “event” for the year group where the act of reading is a shared journey, this being the main theme of the book itself. If your child finds it useful, there is an audiobook version available from Audible and other platforms which they could listen to alongside reading the book.

This book has been very kindly provided by the Friends of St Aidan’s (FOSA), a small friendly committee of parents who meet about 4 or 5 times during the school year and organise fundraisers such as Family Fest, which many of you may have attended, and the Year 7 Family Quiz Night. In previous Years FOSA has helped raise funds for a new school minibus and this year the funds raised by FOSA will enable to students to have a new outdoor area complete with table tennis tables, table football tables and new picnic benches. FOSA funds are always spent very carefully and go towards benefitting as many students as possible. FOSA are always looking for new volunteers to help their fundraising efforts; if you are interested in getting involved with FOSA, please contact marketing@staidans.co.uk.

We hope that your child enjoys their book and the summer break, and we very much look forward to welcoming them to our school community in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Parris
(Literacy Co-ordinator)

Mrs C King
Assistant Head KS3