

# @ The Cedars



**THE CEDARS  
SCHOOL**



WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2020

## DEAR PARENTS

I hope you and your families are well and that you have had a good Easter. We are now back at school this week, at least in a virtual sense, with a new timetable and online platform. One of the features of the new timetable is that alongside lessons, exercise and other routines, all boys will start the day with a period of reading.

The importance of reading is often overlooked; perhaps it seems too passive an activity to some? Recent research into how people learn, however, has buttressed the central role of wide reading within an effective education. If there is one insight which expresses this particularly clearly, it is surely the deeper understanding that we now have of the relationship between knowledge and thought. Not so long ago, the view that knowledge was redundant started to gain currency within some educational circles: "Now that we have Google, what's the point of knowing stuff?" We now know, thanks to the research of Daniel Willingham and others, that knowledge is the very stuff of thought. We don't so

much think about knowledge as think with it. If you want to learn to think critically - to analyse, to synthesise, to evaluate – then you need to know something of what you are thinking about.

One key source of knowledge is wide reading. We glean vocabulary and the concepts that words carry from the books we read but we also broaden our horizons. We commune with some of the greatest minds of history and walk in the shoes of other people with very different experiences to our own.

Another benefit of reading is that it helps us to acquire a clear writing style and, thus indirectly boosts our powers of thought. Exposure to good writing is crucial in this respect and children can benefit at least as much from being read to as reading for themselves. In this connection, I warmly recommend Amazon 'Audible' to you if you are not already aware of it. Audible make a huge number of audible books available in MP3 format and they are currently offering a number of free titles: check them out at <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>.

We have also attached a reading list to this bulletin and I would like to invite your sons to review any books from the list that they read and send them to Ms Norman. We will publish some of the best ones in the next bulletin!

With all good wishes,

Robert Teague,  
**Headmaster**

