



Beyond Expectations

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Axholme Reads - The National Year of Reading 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of some important updates to our expectations for DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time. As an academy, we prioritise reading because we know how vital it is for both academic achievement and lifelong success. Research consistently shows that higher reading ages are strongly linked to better academic outcomes at GCSE and beyond. At the Axholme Academy, we are committed to ensuring every student develops the reading skills needed to thrive.

From Monday to Thursday, all students take part in DEAR time. It is essential that the reading diet they receive during this time is of the best quality so that we can monitor progress and encourage self-challenge.

To support this, we are launching our new DEAR book catalogue. These curated lists include 50 titles per year group, with a comprehensive selection of inclusive reads. The books have been carefully selected to enrich students' reading and ensure they have access to books that are both age-appropriate and matched to their reading ability. The lists include a wide range of genres, so we are confident that every student will find plenty of books they are excited to explore.

Students have heard more about these changes in assemblies and will have the opportunity to look closely at the recommended titles during their forthcoming English lessons. We expect all students to have a book from their year group's reading list ready for the start of the new term in January.

As 2026 marks the National Year of Reading, we believe this initiative is a positive and purposeful way to begin 2026. Further information about each book can be found on the [Academy website](#).

We understand that purchasing new books may involve an additional cost. To reduce this impact please consider visiting local libraries, if you would like more information about how libraries can help please visit our website. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding please contact the academy if you would like a book providing admin@theaxholmeacademy.com

We would also like to encourage parents and carers to join us in promoting positive reading habits by taking part in a simple challenge: reading for just ten minutes a day for six weeks. This small, consistent routine can make a meaningful difference and sets a valuable example for students. You may wish to explore some of the titles featured on the reading lists yourself. Please ensure that your child has their new book from these lists in their school bag ready for the start of next term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

C. Mann

Mrs C S R Mann
Head of English

Thoughtful . Involved . Ambitious . Responsible . Aware