28 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: World Book Day 2020**

Heartlands High School will be celebrating World Book Day 2020 on Thursday 05 March.

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it is a celebration of reading. In fact, it’s the biggest celebration of its kind, designed by [UNESCO](http://www.unesco.org.uk/) as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and is marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

There will be many events and competitions across the school on and around Word Book Day, such as:

* “Dress Your Door” competition
* Visiting Author - Abiola Bello
* Visiting Poet - Bones
* Word Book Day Vouchers for students
* Staff Dress-Up
* Scavenger Hunt
* Games in the library
* Staff extract reading in class

**Why it is important for young people to read?**
Students who read 1 minute a day are exposed to 8,000 words per year compared to students who read 20 minutes a day who are exposed to 1.8 million words per year. This new vocabulary makes accessing exams in all subjects much easier. Additionally, young people who have good reading skills are four times more likely to have good financial skills than their peers who have poor reading skills (35.6% vs 8.8%).

**Top tips to help your child:**

* Listen to them read daily and ask them questions about their books
* Ask to see their reading report in their English book
* Give them time and a quiet space to read every day for 20 minutes
* Reward their efforts

Please take the time this week to discuss these events with your child and encourage them to get involved.

Yours sincerely,

Cara Doherty
Whole School Reading Lead