

Welcome to Year 7 Evening

July 2nd 2025

Co-headteachers' welcome

- Partnership
- Vision and values
 - Creating tomorrow's citizens today
 - 12 values explicitly modelled and taught
- High academic expectations
- Enrichment opportunities
- Community - Communication



Vision - our why

A Simon Balle Student



I AM.

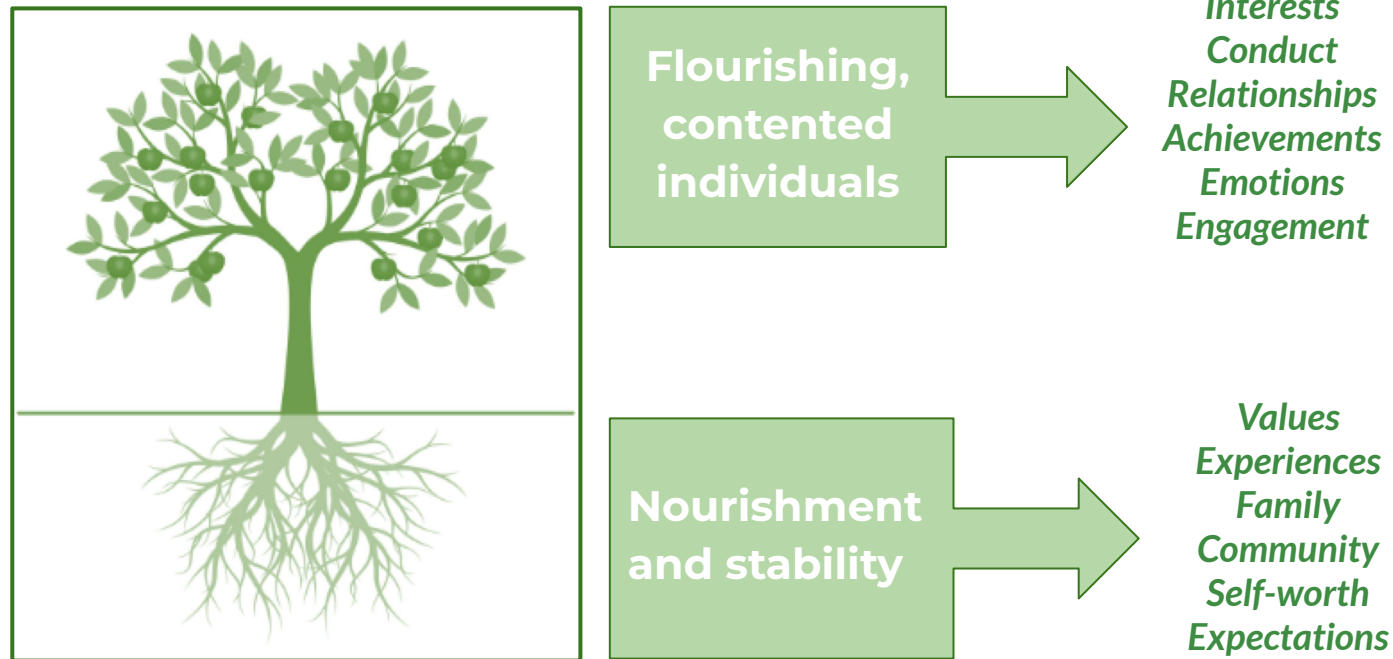
'Tomorrow's Citizens Today'



Simon Balle
All-through School



Vision - our why





The ABC of Firm Foundations



A – Academic Lens

"Every student known, every barrier challenged, every potential unlocked."

B – Belonging

"When students feel they belong, they thrive."

C – Culture

"Culture shapes the whole – it's what happens when no one is watching."

**Creating
tomorrow's
citizens
today**



Academic: Curriculum and Challenge

A key focus for transition - oft-neglected by others.

Academic and pastoral inextricably linked.

Curriculum continuity:

- Content
- Skills
- Stretch

Chromebooks tool for this: July 10th deadline

Built on a bedrock of literacy



KS3 Dip



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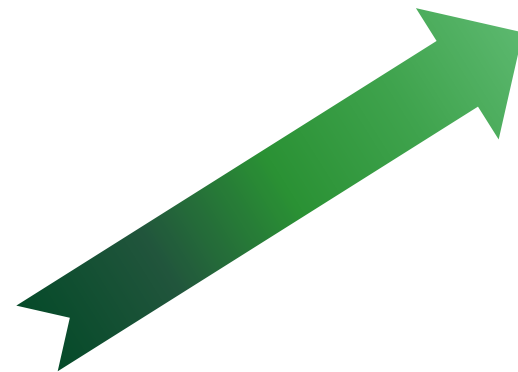
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Aspirations and expectations



Academic: Literacy

Key issue at transition.

- 90% of secondary staff nationally note this is fundamental to success
- Vital for all subjects - single biggest factor in any potential success.

Pronounced at transition and gap does not close -

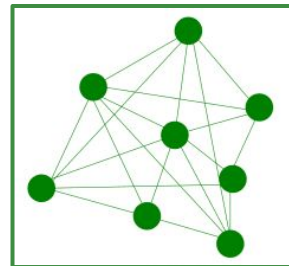
- 3 - 4-fold increase in quantity of spoken language exposure each day and in new vocabulary
- Declining reading comprehension from age 8 - a result of low vocabulary

Front and centre of our work in and out of class.

- Whole school focus: reading, vocabulary and oracy
- Programmes for assessment and support

We expect students to read 30 minutes a day as a minimum.

- Habits
- Experiences
- Discussions



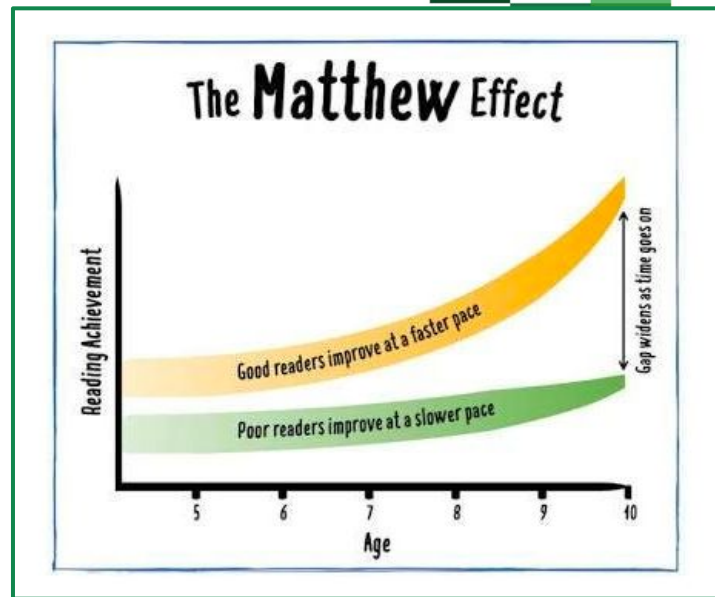
Academic: National Picture

25% of students do not reach the 'expected standard' in their Year 6 SATs reading assessment.

25% of 15 year olds have a reading age around 3 three years or more below chronological age.

Students without these fundamental literacy skills find it difficult not only to learn but also generally to make friends and flourish.

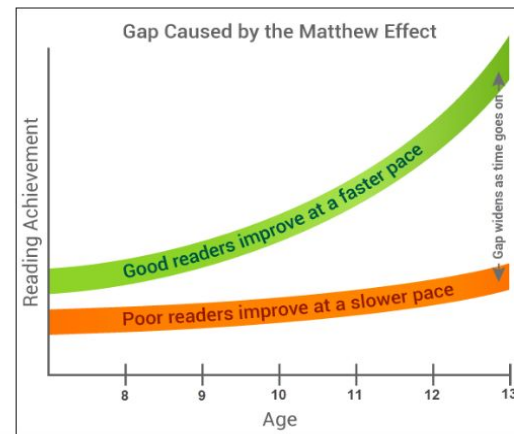
Transparency with home around how your child is faring through communication.



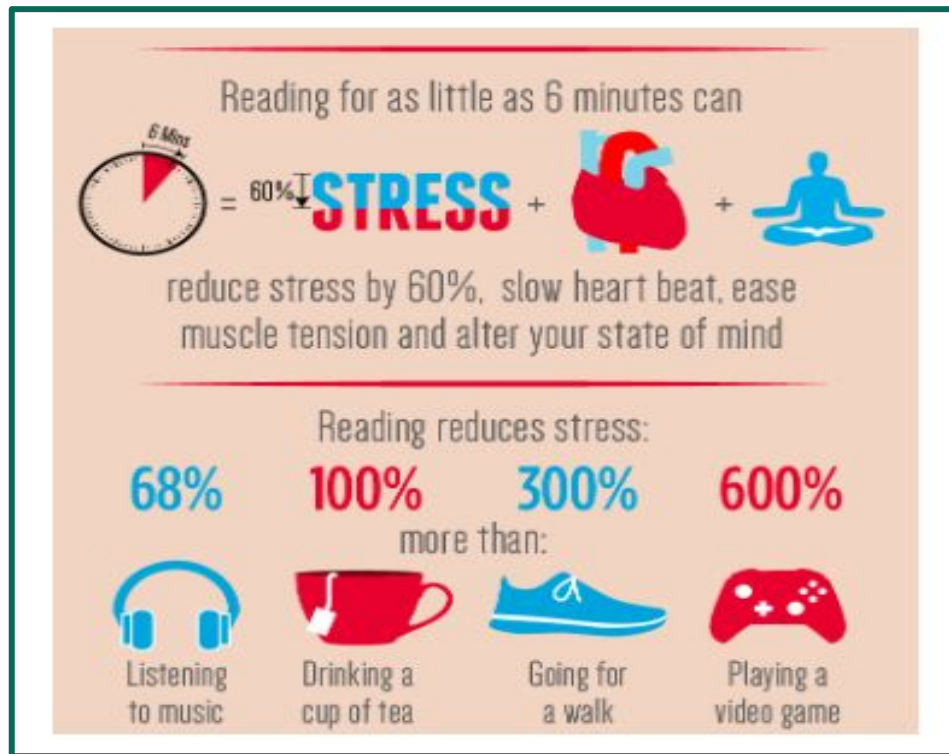
'The strong readers move from 'learning to read to reading to learn'



Reading 30 minutes a night



Reading 30 minutes a night



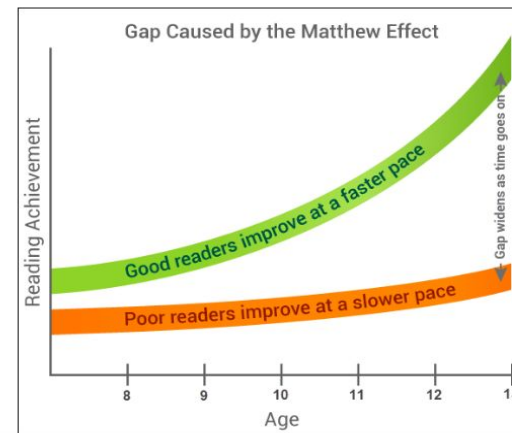
Read for 12 hours a week to boost their performance in school.

Any less and the brain is not being fully nurtured.

- better grades
- increase the size of brain
- improve cognitive ability
- support good mental health
- fewer signs of stress and depression
- improved attention
- fewer behavioural problems such as aggression and rule-breaking
- reduced screen time and sleep longer



Reading 30 minutes a night



Academic: Home Learning

Home learning
fuels focus, builds
aspiration, and
unlocks every
child's potential
for lifelong
success.

- Average gain of **5 additional months** of academic progress.
- **Up to 30%** increase a student's ability to concentrate.
- **34% improvement** in increased motivation and the setting of higher academic goals.
- An increase student motivation by **up to 25%**.
- **74%** of students reported feeling more confident managing their own learning.



Academic: Home Learning

- English: 30 - 45 minutes per week
- Maths: 30 - 45 minutes per week
- Science: 30 - 45 minutes per week
- MFL: 30 - 45 minutes per week
- History: 30 minutes per week
- Geography: 30 minutes per week

- PRE - 30 minutes per fortnight
- Art/Design - 30 minutes per fortnight
- Drama - 30 minutes per fortnight
- Computing - 30 minutes per fortnight

Average of 4 hours per week of set home learning.

Phased introduction for the first half term:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Reading
- Art, Design, Technology

Study Clubs to facilitate completion.





Academic: Gradu8

Academic enrichment with **personalised** pathways:

- *Bespoke Reading and numeracy intervention and software programmes*
- *Gradu8 Passport Projects*
- *Mini-extended project qualifications*

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning.
8.00 - 8.30am.

Expected that all Year 7s will attend.

Home and school partnership valued.

Aspirational culture.



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"Strong Start, Solid Future - Together We Build the Foundation."

WE BELONG



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Belonging

Feeling a sense of belonging is one of the strongest predictors of a positive transition and long-term success.

Direct impact on:

- Mental and emotional well-being
- Academic achievement
- Social and behavioral outcomes

Establishing a strong culture of belonging - positive relationships between students and staff. Engaged, resilient, motivated students.

Working together so all students flourish in order that they can become happy, successful people who live well together as part of a community.



Belonging

Connect and Contribute

- New friends
- Houses and Forms
- PSHE and Assemblies

Enrichment

- Wide variety
- Seek out new experiences
- Two clubs per year minimum
- Get involved!

Values

sport
for
simon
balle



Creating tomorrow's citizens today



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proud
proud
proud
proud

Belonging: Uniform

More than just clothes:

- Belonging
- Mindset
- Community
- Equity



Belonging: Uniform and Phones



Not seen; not heard



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Culture: We Are What We Consistently Do

Culture shapes the whole.

It is the daily effort.

It is how people behave when no one is watching.

It is the 'hidden curriculum'.

- Responsibility and accountability
- Habits and self-regulation
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Behaviour points



Communication:

- Onus is on student
- Pre-empt
- Attempt to resolve issues themselves
- Seek help from staff - conversation/email

Independence and organisation*:

- Packing bag the night before
- Fully-charged Chromebook
- All equipment
- Home learning

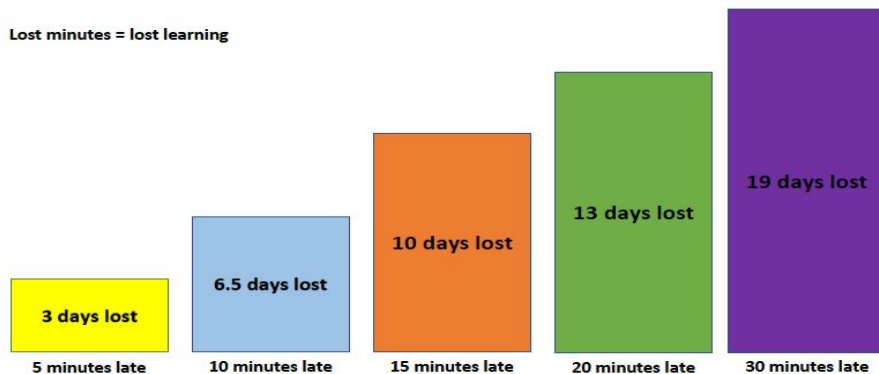
***Year 7 Evening Checklist: Be ready for tomorrow**

Culture: Punctuality

Impact of Lateness

Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school

Lost minutes = lost learning



Disrupt learning routines

Signal a lack of engagement or commitment

Lead to missed content and falling behind

Affect relationships with peers and teachers

Create a mindset of detachment or indifference



Culture: Attendance

95% = 50 lessons missed

90% = 100 lessons missed - *half a day every week*

85% = 150 lessons missed

5% = 2 weeks absence

97%+ = good attendance

Letters will begin if dropping below this

Under 92% = persistent absenteeism

No holidays in term time

Medical evidence if ongoing concern

Referral to county

Fixed penalties



Parental Partnership

Use the Transition Website:

- *Ready for Year 7 document*
- *Wow Me Project*
- *Summer Reading Challenge*

Summer School

Digital routine Home learning - routines and organisation

Google form to be released- extra conversation if desired

Workshops, Reports & Parents Evenings

Attendance and punctuality

Habits and belonging

Strong schools,
supportive homes:
together we care,
together they
thrive.

- **Transition Day - July 10th**
- **Stevensons Sizing event - July 14th**
- **Summer School August 27th-29th**
- **First day - September 2nd**
- **Parental Connection meeting - September 24th**

