

## Helping your son's reading: ages 11 to 16

Reading of books often declines during teenage years as there are so many activities competing for young people's time - including school work, part-time jobs and their social life, as well as other leisure activities. Here are some tips to help you encourage your son's reading skills:

- 1. Talk about books.** Encourage your son and his friends to talk about what they read and share good reads.
- 2. Choose intriguing books.** [www.cool-reads.co.uk](http://www.cool-reads.co.uk) provides reviews of books for teenagers by teenagers.
- 3. Reward reading with awards.** If your son is in the First Form, encourage him to take part in BGSB's Reading Award Scheme and compete against his peers.
- 4. Let your son guide the reading of younger siblings.** Suggest older sons read with younger members of the family.
- 5. Read yourself!** Set a good example by reading for pleasure and talking about the reading you do at work and home.
- 6. Don't just read books.** If he says he doesn't have time for reading books or novels (after all, many adults say the same), encourage him to read other materials or non-fiction books that relate to his current concerns and interests - for example, biographies, true-life stories in magazines and news reports.
- 7. Spot words inside words.** Help him to spot words he knows within larger more complicated words.
- 8. Don't make him try too hard!** It doesn't matter if you have to tell him the word sometimes.
- 9. Make the story come to life.** Encourage your son to read aloud with expression so the story comes to life. This will help him read more fluently.
- 10. Use a dictionary.** If your son doesn't have a dictionary, purchase one for him and encourage him to use it to check the meanings of new words.