

KS4 Reading Forum



Welcome and thank you for waiting.

This session will begin at 6pm. **It will be recorded.**

Microphones and cameras are already disabled. Please feel free to use the chat box; there will be time for questions at the end.



Overview of the session

‘Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.’

Introduction

Establishing our reader identity

Reading for pleasure

National Year of reading

Reading for progress

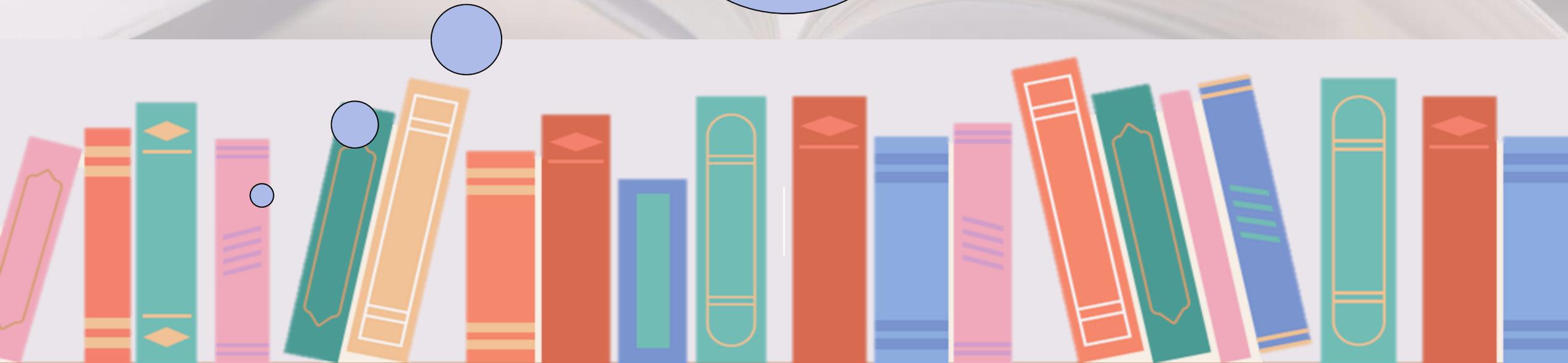
Reading for revision

Questions.



What was the last
book that you read?

What was the last
book your child read?





Reflecting on 24/25

Percentage of UK children and young people who enjoy reading is at its lowest level in 20 years with only 1 in 3 children enjoying reading in the UK.

Fewer than 1 in 5 8–18-year-olds report reading daily in their free time.

36% drop in reading enjoyment since 2005.

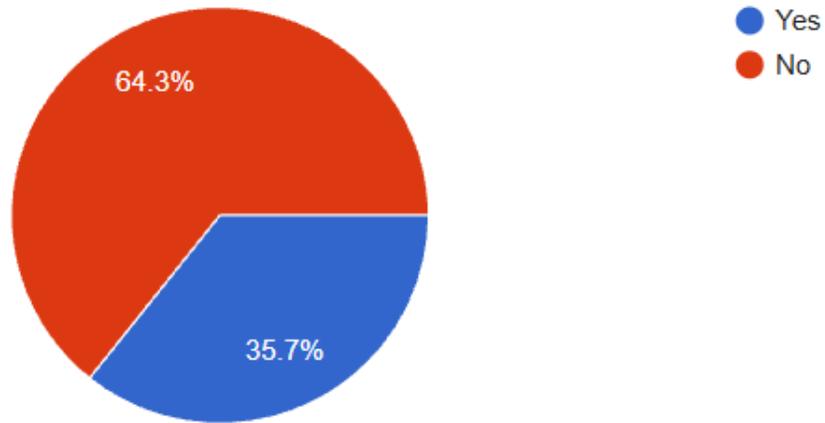
In 2025, 9 in 10 (89.7%) children and young people aged 5 to 18 said they had a book of their own at home, meaning 1 in 10 (10.3%) did not have their own book.



Reflecting on 24/25

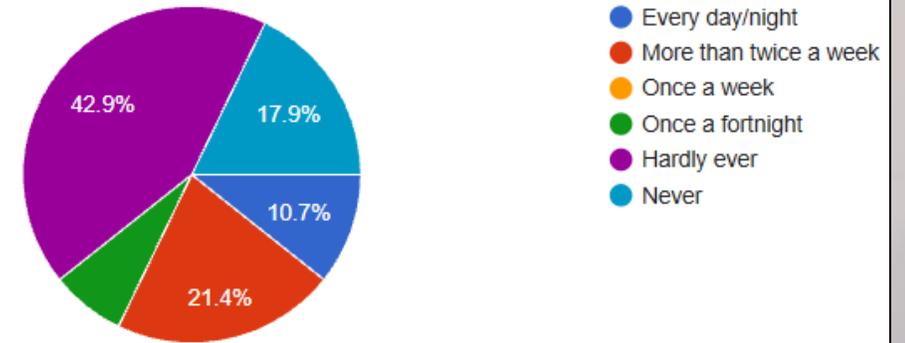
As a whole, does your child enjoy reading?

28 responses



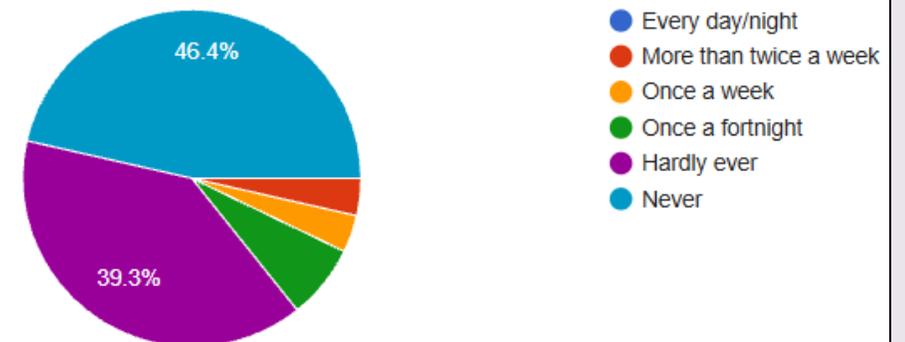
How often does your child read at home independently?

28 responses



How often do you (or another family member) sit and read with your child?

28 responses





Reader identity

- ❑ **Reader identity is about how individuals see themselves as readers.** This might include their history, preferences, feelings, habits, associations, and emotional engagement with reading.
- ❑ It's unique to every person and shaped by lived experience, relationships, and reading encounters, not just skill.

Understanding and talking about who we are as a reader is a powerful start point for nurturing reading for pleasure, progress and engagement.

Reader identity at Alcester Academy



Reading is essential for progress

Reading is essential for progress because it helps students learn, think better, and understand the world around them; preparing them for post-16 study. It opens their minds to new ideas and encourages creativity and problem-solving.

Reading for pleasure

Reading for pleasure is closely linked to this because when people enjoy reading, they do it more often and learn more naturally. Enjoyable reading builds curiosity, language skills, and empathy, which all help personal growth and social progress.



Reading for pleasure

- ❑ **Reading for pleasure** = a term adopted in educational policy within the UK. It is essentially the reading you do for pure enjoyment or relaxation in order to gain satisfaction from the act of reading.
- ❑ Reading for pleasure helps students develop their reading frequency.
- ❑ It also helps students discover new things; boosting their curiosity and creativity.
- ❑ Creating a culture of reading for pleasure.





Reading for pleasure



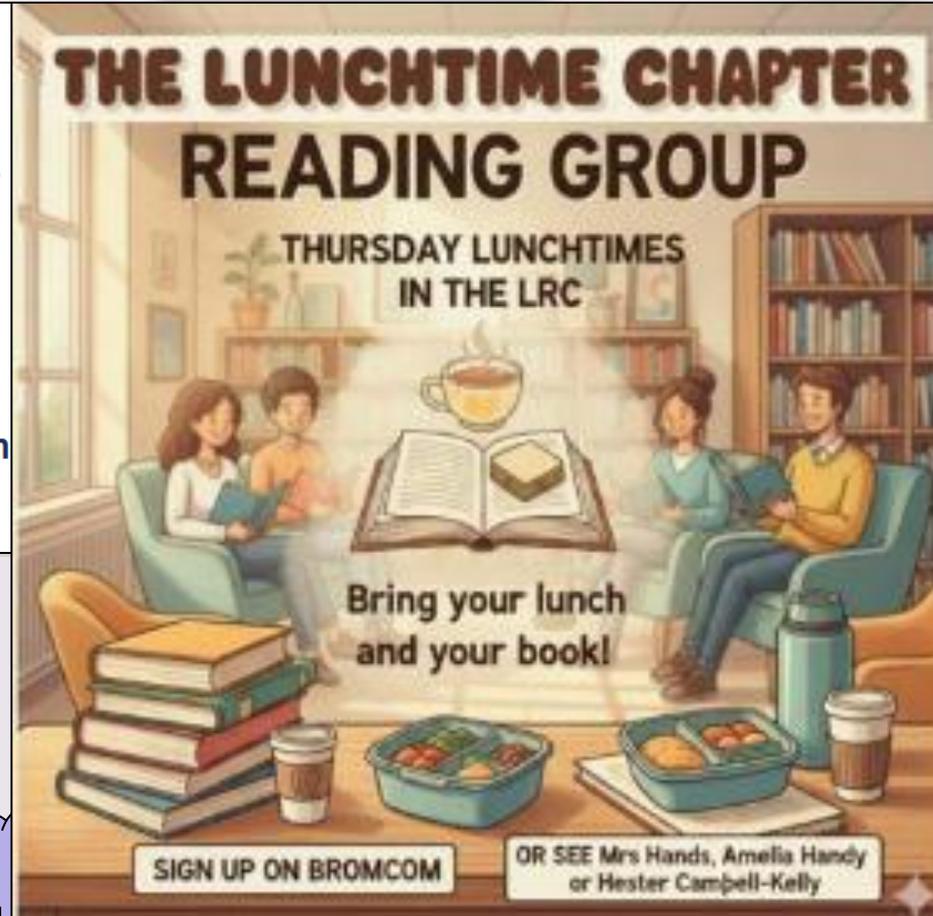
Books tied to films or TV series.



Hearing recommendations from friends, family or teachers.

Become a student librarian!

Warwickshire book award



The freedom to choose what they could read.





National Year of Reading

**GO
ALL
IN.**

A national push to get every child reading

In 2026, a national spotlight is being put on reading and on the simplest way to help children enjoy it: connecting it to what they already love. From dinosaurs to dancing, from comics to cooking, passions make stories feel natural and fun.

For families, the National Year of Reading also means more support, more ideas and more opportunities to weave reading into busy routines, whatever age your child is.



National Year of Reading

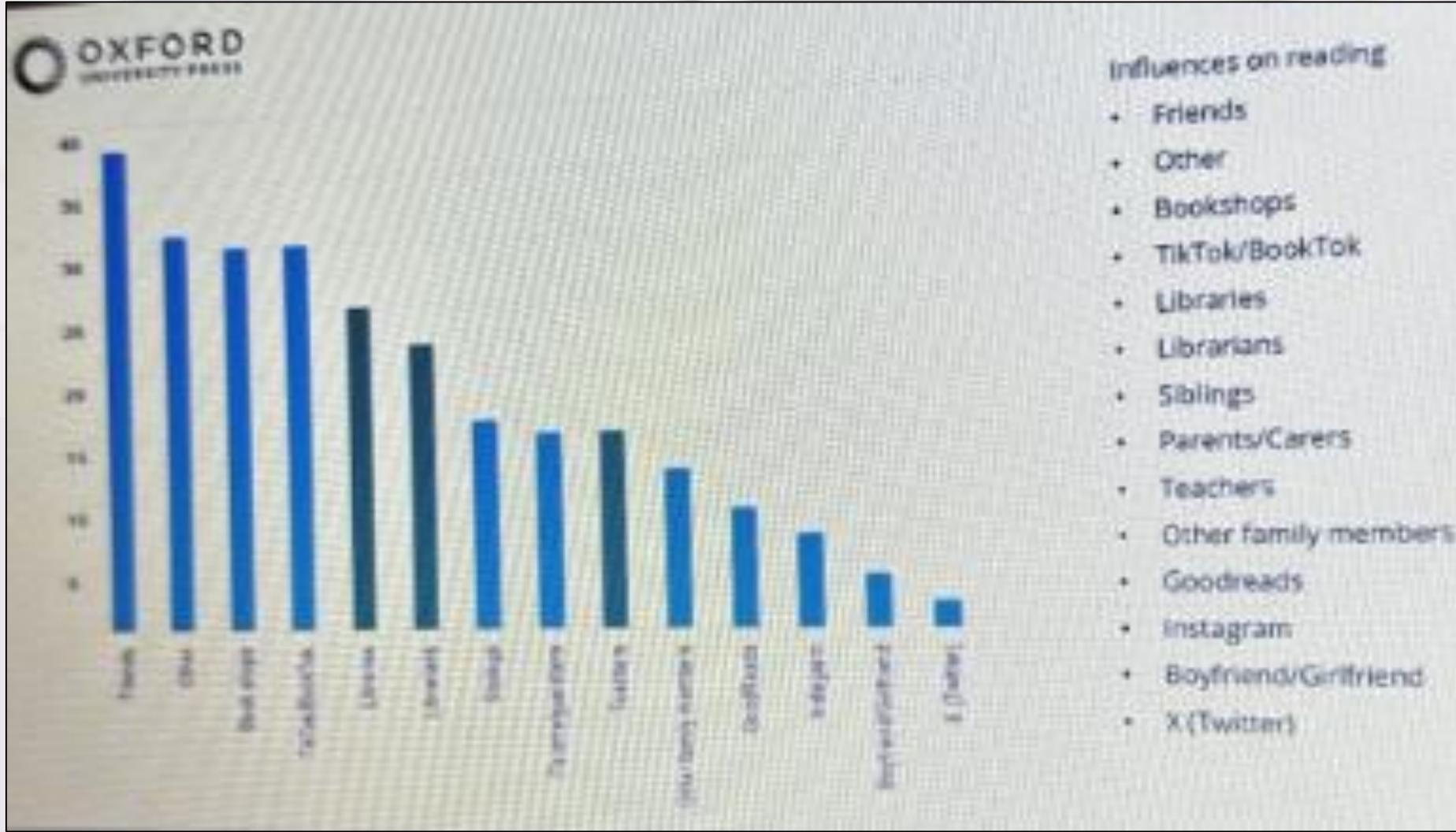
Tips to help build a love of reading:

- Reconnect reading to hobbies and interests
- Allow different formats – anything and everything!
- Author events
- Look for books based on films or games
- Speak to your local librarian or bookseller
- Celebrate reading as a social activity
- Help them find places to discuss books
- Be patient, the right book is out there!

**GO
ALL
IN.**



National Year of Reading





Reading for progress

- ❑ “Children who are weak readers will struggle as much in maths and science at GCSE as they do in English and in arts subjects, according to one of the biggest ever studies of student reading.” (*Renaissance*)
- ❑ Average reading age to fully access and comprehend GCSE papers is 15 years and 7 months. Some of the content in GCSE History may cover content of a reading level of 19 years!
- ❑ Students can improve academic attainment by using active reading strategies like predicting, questioning, and summarizing to improve comprehension and critical thinking.



Reading for progress

- ❑ **Reducing "Cognitive Load":** Reading builds "fluency." When a student has high reading fluency, they don't have to "work" to understand a Science exam question; their brain is free to focus entirely on the *scientific answer*.
- ❑ **The Print Advantage:** Recent studies suggest that reading on paper leads to better retention and deeper comprehension than digital reading—vital for long revision sessions.
- ❑ **Stress Management:** Reading for just 6 minutes can reduce stress levels by up to 68%, making it a perfect "reset" tool during high-pressure mock or final exam periods.



Reading for progress

Introducing our Recommended Reading posters...

ENGLISH RECOMMENDED READING

Key Stage 3

D-DAY DOG TOM PALMER, ROALD DAHL GOING SOLO, PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF RICK RIORDAN, THE HUNGER GAMES SUZANNE COLLINS

Key Stage 4

MACBETH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird, GREAT EXPECTATIONS CHARLES DICKENS, DNA by Dennis Kelly

Looking for a challenge?

FRANKENSTEIN Mary Shelley, BRAVE NEW WORLD VINTAGE HUXLEY, THE MOONSTONE WILKIE COLLINS, NOUGHTS & CROSSES malorie blackman

GEOGRAPHY RECOMMENDED READING

Key Stage 3

HORRIBLE GEOGRAPHY BLOOMIN' RAINFORESTS, KATHERINE RUNDELLE THE EXPLORER, Wicked World TOUR

Key Stage 4

PRISONERS OF GEOGRAPHY TIM MARSHALL, A LONG WALK TO WATER CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON, AERIALVIEW

Looking for a challenge?

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION ELIZABETH HOLBERT, THE SHADOW OF THE WIND CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON, Bernard Cornwell THE WINTER KING

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDED READING

Year 9

Young People and Youth Justice, Wicked World TOUR, COPING SKILLS FOR TEENS, mindset

Year 10

Ultimate SELF-ESTEEM WORKBOOK for teens, Rich Dad Poor Dad, SOCIAL MEDIA SURVIVAL GUIDE, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens

Year 11

THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NORMAN VINCENT PEALE, FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR MILLENNIALS, the emotionally intelligent teen, NO YES real talk about sex & consent



Reading to support revision

Read a chapter of a revision guide and ask them to “teach” it to you back.

Encourage reading journalism (e.g., The Guardian, BBC News)

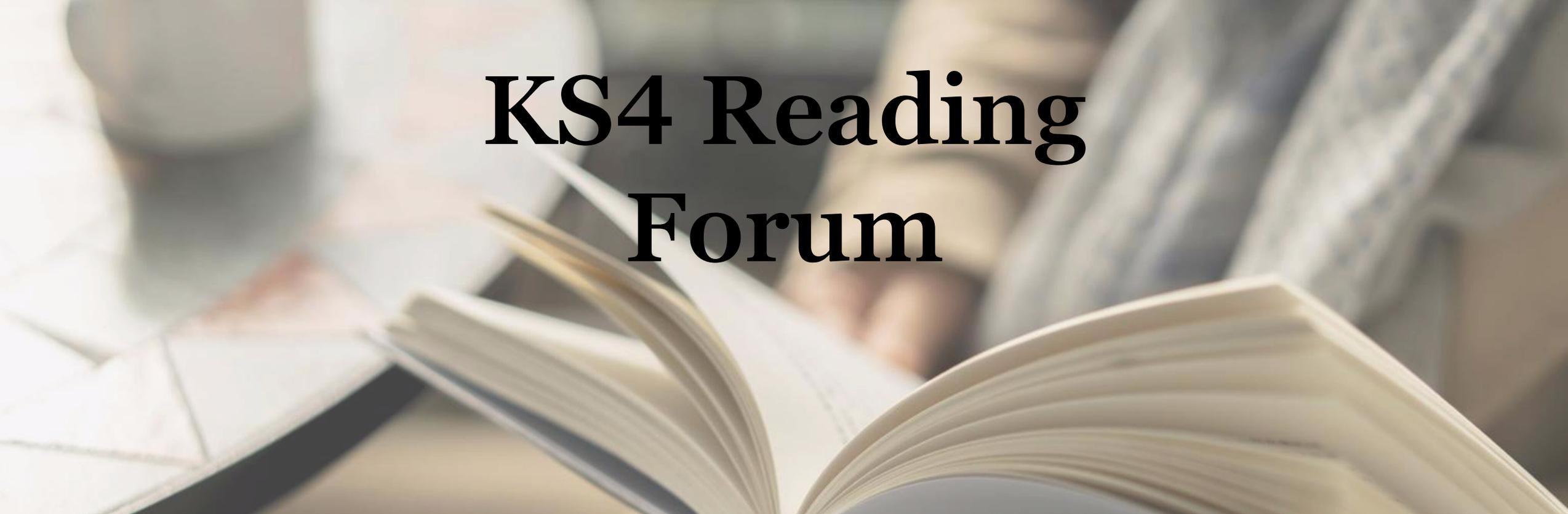
Listen to the audiobook of their English set texts together.

Read a revision guide and highlight command words (calculate, compare, contrast).

Create a ‘word wall’ of high-level vocabulary.

Read news articles about current geographical events.

Read a complex paragraph from a revision guide and sketch it out as a diagram (e.g. Cell Mitosis).

The background of the top half of the slide is a photograph showing a close-up of an open book with its pages fanned out. In the background, a person's hands and part of their torso are visible, suggesting they are reading. The lighting is soft and natural, creating a warm and focused atmosphere.

KS4 Reading Forum

Questions?

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