



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

# READING DETECTIVE PROGRAM



◀..... @ St. Peter's we read .....▶

*"Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals; to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society"* (UNESCO, 2004; 2017)

## Literacy and Reading at St. Peter's College

At St. Peter's College Years 7 & 8 at both Cranbourne and Clyde North campuses take part in a structured Literacy and Reading Program as part of their English studies to reinforce the vital skills required to gain meaning and understanding from their reading for all subjects. Led by specialist teachers, the program includes reading for pleasure combined with Sustained Silent Reading and one-on-one conferencing with a teacher for all students. The potential results will not only improve literacy (including comprehension and vocabulary) but also a love of reading and experimentation with new genres.

We named our reading and literacy program the '**Reading Detective Program**' because life-long learning is all about constant questioning and looking for 'clues' in everything we read. We also encourage the students to use self-questioning and self-monitoring strategies when they read in order to grow in their learning.



To help students think about their reading and learning, the teachers use the chart '*What do good readers do?*' This chart can be used at home to continue conversation about reading. The chart provides questions that can be used to begin the conversations, depending where in the book they are up to. Expect the unexpected when you start these valuable reading conversations!



# Continued reading and learning at home

## How long should students read at home each day and what should they read?

At St. Peter's we value the support from families in order to consolidate and continue your son or daughter's learning journey at home. Research has shown that those that read regularly do better in their learning. Reading regularly reinforces details and increases memory capacity. At St. Peter's the students practice making responses to their reading on an interactive program called Beanstack, as well as being able to log their reading and seeing their reading progress.

To develop the habit of reading regularly and to improve reading ability, all students are expected to read for **30 minutes at home each weekday**; this is an important expectation for students of St. Peter's College. Students should be reading fiction as well as their school texts. Reading fiction has been shown to increase general knowledge, develop a strong vocabulary and increases insights into other cultures and society. Library staff and Library teachers are always on hand to suggest new titles or genres and the students can suggest new books and series for the libraries to purchase. Students are able to look-up and reserve books from 'My Library' catalogue on SPACE.

## It is important to set up an environment at home where reading is valued:

- make a regular, comfortable space for reading with minimal distractions
- talk regularly with your son or daughter about what they are reading
- provide plenty of reading material e.g books, magazines, newspaper etc.
- use your local public library outside of school time and encourage regular borrowing
- try audio books, available through St. Peter's College and the public library

## How can I make reading a fun experience together?

**DISCUSS AND SHARE  
OPINIONS AND FEELINGS  
ABOUT STORIES**

**TALK ABOUT THE  
GENRES OR TYPES  
OF BOOKS YOU  
EACH LIKE TO  
READ**

**TELL STORIES – REAL LIFE  
AND IMAGINARY**

**READ ALOUD TOGETHER – TAKE  
TURNS**

**BE POSITIVE, AVOID JUDGING  
AND GIVE PLENTY OF  
POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT**

*“Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency.”* Barack Obama  
–“Literacy and Education in a 21st-Century Economy,” given to the American Library Association on 25/06/05