



# Beaumont School

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2 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## #BeaumontReads – The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla – Year 7

I am so pleased to introduce you to our annual #BeaumontReads initiative: a scheme which encourages the entire school community - staff, students, parents and governors - to read, respond to and get involved in the cross-curricular events related to a specific novel each year. I am thrilled to announce that we have selected, *The Boxer*, by Nikesh Shukla as our book this year.

Our choice this year has been really well received by all the early birds who have been clamouring to get their hands on it. Covering themes and issues such as racism, identity, coping with (and recovering from) various forms of trauma and loss, as well as exploring the powerful impact that exercise can have on an individual, *The Boxer* is a choice that seems particularly apt this year.

However, it is clear that some of these current themes and issues may require a level of maturity from the reader and in fact, the book has been classified as being appropriate for students aged 12 onwards. I appreciate that some of our Year 7 students may not have had their 12<sup>th</sup> birthdays yet, and as parents you might prefer to read along with your child and make the most of the opportunity to discuss the issues as they appear in the novel.

Alternatively, student may like to 'keep this one for later' and instead, dip into some of our previous reads: *Apple and Rain* by Sarah Crossan; *Counting by Sevens* by Holly Goldberg Sloan; *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *I Have No Secrets* by Penny Joelson and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (all of which are still readily available from our school library). Reading, reviewing and collecting our book related badges has become a happy tradition, with many year 7 students reading the back catalogue and wearing their badges with pride.

We are launching the Whole School Read in tutor time on **Thursday 10 December 2020** where students will participate in activities related to the book, and read/listen to the opening chapter. Taking the age classification into consideration, I have carefully vetted the appropriateness of the extract Year 7 students will encounter and am confident that all students will be able to access and relate to the text in a positive way.

Our launch will coincide with **DEAR** day: for approximately 10 minutes of each lesson, teachers will **Drop Everything And Read**, reading to, reading with and listening to the specially recorded audio books of our back catalogue of Whole School Reads (featuring the vocal talents of Beaumont teaching staff). By the end of the day, year 7 students will have a flavour of the range of books we have enjoyed together as a school, and will hopefully be inspired to reserve one from our library at <https://uk.accessit.online/bmn00/#!dashboard>

There will be a range of opportunities for students to get involved in cross-curricular activities and events over the forthcoming months. Details will be available on the





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#BeaumontReads Google Classroom which students can join using the code:  
**kbheojm**

We look forward to your support in making this initiative a success. It would be a privilege to have as many students, staff, parents and governors share in the magic and memories of reading together.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Cripps  
Literacy Coordinator

