



Bacchus Marsh  
Grammar

12 August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I recently came across a quote from American intellectual, Mason Cooley, who stated that *'reading gives us some place to go, when we have to stay where we are.'* In our current circumstances, this really resonated.

We know that reading can be life-changing for children of any age. Studies examining the habits of kindergarten to Year 12 students have found that just six extra minutes of reading time per day can help a struggling reader reach – and even surpass – the year level's benchmark. Students in the same study, who read for 15 minutes or more per day, improved their reading skills at an accelerated rate. Research also clearly indicates the positive impact of having reading role models in the home and at school, highlighting the importance of establishing a reading culture among families and the influence this can have on determining literacy outcomes for children.

Students of today are faced with many modes of entertainment and live in a fast-paced, information rich world. They have vast technology at their fingertips and can find answers to their questions in seconds with a quick Google search. In many ways, it is understandable that reading for pleasure has taken a backseat for some of them, but it is vital that we encourage students to read as much as possible and do what we can to instil a love for reading that they can take through life. There really is no other skill as important.

In an endeavour to motivate students to increase their reading, we are running an exciting competition for the next few weeks. **The Bacchus Marsh Grammar Reading Decathlon Challenge** is open to all students from Prep to Year 12 and we encourage you to get involved by supporting and encouraging your children to participate. The Challenge consists of ten 'events' aimed to encourage reading and literacy in the lead up to Literacy Week in Week 8 of this term.

In designing this competition, we have taken inspiration from the amazing Bronze Medal performance of Ashley Moloney in Decathlon, who last week became the first Australian in history to place at the Olympics in this event. Just as the varied nature of the decathlon allows athletes to demonstrate great skill and versatility, providing a variety of literacy experiences at home and at school affords children the same opportunity to shine.

Details regarding participation and entry into the BMG Reading Decathlon Challenge are attached as part of this communication, are available on Schoolbox and can be located on the myBMG Parent Portal under 'Documents/Whole School'.

For further information, please contact your child's tutor group teacher or alternatively contact me via: [dilgesk@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:dilgesk@bmg.vic.edu.au)

We look forward to seeing many entries over the coming weeks!

Happy reading!

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