

## Accelerated Reader Programme at Villiers High School



At Villiers all KS3 students have started to use the Accelerated Reader programme, to develop their reading skills and ability, which will continue into the next academic year. All students have Accelerated Reader logins a book level range and are expected to borrow Accelerated Reader books from the school library. Fortnightly library lessons support quizzing, book selection and reading skills.

**STAR Reading Tests** for all KS3 students at start of academic year and then a further two times to measure reading age progress.

To make progress in reading and literacy we expect all students at Villiers to:

- Read independently for a minimum of 20 minutes every day
- Read books that are in their book level reading range (generated by the STAR reading tests)
- Read widely and fluently

### What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a software tool that assesses a pupil's reading level, suggests titles of books at that level, and then assesses whether a pupil has completed reading the book by asking a series of questions. The software then gives immediate feedback to pupils on their success and has proved to be very successful in developing pupils' reading skills and raising standards in literacy.

### How does it work?

Each pupil takes a diagnostic STAR reading test 4 times a year, which gives teachers a reading age for each pupil and gives pupils a book level range to guide them into reading at their correct level. The book level ranges of each student are recorded in their English books.

Students can then choose, read, answer questions and reflect on their book in an online quiz which they can only access on the computers at school. The result of book quizzes shows whether they have indeed understood the book and were able to remember what they read. Passing a quiz earns points for the student; each term they have a new individualised target.

Students re-take the STAR reading comprehension test three times a year. After all the practice, we expect to see an improvement in their reading abilities. A higher reading ability means the individual will then be asked to read "harder" books, and to reach a more challenging target of points. Setting high standards and encouraging individuals to improve and push themselves is important and helps students become the best they can be.

### What are the benefits of Accelerated Reader?

The principle behind this programme is to promote a lifelong love of reading in every pupil, regardless of ability. It is designed to do the following:

- Make essential reading practice more effective for every pupil, motivating pupils to read, and enjoy their reading, through discussion and reflection on their reading
- Personalise reading practice to each pupil's current level and assess pupils' reading skills through fun quizzes
- Encourage engagement with texts and retention of learning
- Allow time for pupils to develop their focus and concentration and improve their reading skills

## Quizzing, Rewards and Incentives

Students receive points every time they complete a quiz on an Accelerated Reader book. Every term students are rewarded in assemblies for their point achievements and for average scores of 85% on quizzes. An 85% average proves that students are making progress with their reading and are reading books at the right level.

Students also have opportunities to win prizes for becoming 'Word Millionaires' and can win book vouchers for their reading achievements.

## What can you do to support your child?

- Parents can log on to the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder Website <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx> to view their child's quiz results, monitor their progress and find guidance on suitable books to read at different book levels.
- Students also need to be reading a wide range of texts - please see the KS3 recommended reading list for more ideas or students can ask their English teachers.
- Every KS3 student has a reading log and book level tracker in their English books. Check your child is reading books at their correct reading level and make sure they are reading these books every day.

If you have any questions please speak to any member of the English Department or E.Richardson (Literacy Coordinator) [erichardson@villiers.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:erichardson@villiers.ealing.sch.uk).

## Read to Succeed School Ethos



At Villiers we aim to promote embed a culture of reading across the school through the Read to Succeed ethos. All students at Villiers are expected to have a reading book on them at all times.

During KS3 form time, students have the opportunity once a week to read and complete reflection activities to discuss what they are reading with their forms. All KS3 students also frequently have opportunities to read silently in English lessons and library lessons.

At KS4, form time reading activities are linked to their English Literature GCSE texts and current affairs through non-fiction resources. It is important that KS4 students focus their reading on their English GCSE texts as well as continue to read a wide range of challenging fiction and non-fiction texts.