

Accelerated Reader Information

How will the programme benefit Orsett Heath pupils?

We decided to invest our efforts into this programme due to an overwhelming amount of data that suggested this programme explicitly improves pupil's reading ages and benefits their literacy development. A study by the Education Endowment committee and Durham University showed that the programme produces particularly positive effects on a student's reading age – increasing their ability by an additional three months in just 22 weeks. For those pupils from low income families, the effect is even more significant – raising their reading age by an additional 5 months after just 22 weeks.

A further study by Dr Christina Clark of the National Literacy Trust (NLT) asked 29,422 students questions about their attitudes towards reading and about their reading behaviour. The report compared the responses of those students who identified themselves as users of Accelerated Reader (AR) and those who did not and found that students who use Accelerated Reader are more likely to:

- enjoy reading
- have a favourite book
- agree that reading is cool
- read regularly at least once a week outside class
- agree that they will get a better job when they grow up if they are good at reading

According to research, children who read at least 25 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, a child should have at least 25 minutes set aside for reading each day. To help this, pupils at Orsett Heath Academy will begin all English lessons with 10 minutes of reading upon entry into the classroom and will have scheduled library lessons across the fortnightly timetable.

How does it work?

Accelerated Reader combines online software, classroom routines and the library to motivate students to read. Each student begins by completing a baseline assessment called 'Star Reading' to support their personalised reading practice. The Star Reading test comprises of 34 questions aimed to test a child's comprehension skills. The test automatically adapts each question to the level of ability your child is displaying before producing a report for the class teacher that details the child's reading age and their assigned reading range. Every book in the school library is assigned a specific book level depending on its level of challenge. The data the teacher receives from the child's Star Reader test allows the teacher to guide students towards books from the library that are at a level they will easily comprehend. The personalised reading range allows students to confidently select a book of interest and challenge. It is encouraged that the pupil to start the process at the lower end of their range to gain confidence and get used to the Accelerated Reader system; before then encouraging

them to challenge themselves more and move up through the range when we see the progress we expect. Each book level is associated with a particular colour in the library, allowing for students to quickly and easily identify the books they wish to choose.

Once the student has selected their book, they will read them either in class or in the library and at home. Back at school, the pupil will log into Accelerated Reader and complete an online quiz about what they have just read. The student will immediately get their results and if they have read a book that is at the correct level for them, they should pass. These accelerated reader quizzes not only aid reading skills but also allow for literacy skills such as comprehension, vocabulary expansion and inference to be heightened. There are over 160,000 accelerated reader quizzes available so pupils will never run out of books to choose from regardless of their level of ability. With the instant results the child gets from these tests, our teachers can immediately provide positive feedback on the child's reading practice or intervene if a problem is noted, then making informed decisions to guide their future learning.

How will the programme be put into practice?

- The programme will be launched to parents at the 'Accelerated Reader Parent Information Evening' at the beginning of the year – calendared for 13th and 14th October. The programme will be explained to the parents here and parental engagement will be encouraged.
- Parents will be informed of progress at Parents' Evenings and any issues/achievements highlighted will be flagged to parents via the pupils' English teachers.
- AR books will be part of the pupils' expected daily equipment and one tutor session over the cycle will be given to DEAR.
- All pupils will read their AR books at the beginning of every English lesson for ten minutes and pupils will be expected to read for a further 15 minutes each evening to match the AR suggested time frame for maximum progress.
- Pupils will also be allocated two hours in a fortnight dedicated to Accelerated Reader within the curriculum.
- Rewards and achievements will be highlighted using things like 'The Millionaire's Club', Library Monitors and 'Reward Breakfasts' etc.