



Dear Parent/Carer

At the beginning of the new term we will be introducing a reading programme called Accelerated Reader. Some of you will be familiar with this as it is run in several of our feeder primaries. The programme is aimed at all pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 regardless of their reading level.

Accelerated Reader is a programme designed to boost achievement in literacy and across the curriculum. It does this by encouraging students to read regularly at exactly the right level, and by carefully monitoring every student's individual progress. As a result student reading ages are boosted quicker than normal.

When students join us in Year 7, they have different reading ages – roughly half have a reading age of up to 11 and the other half have a reading age of 11 and above. Children with a reading age below their actual age sometimes stop reading fiction completely when they start secondary school. This means their reading age doesn't improve and in some instances actually declines.

When a student starts their GCSE's and if their reading age is below their actual age (pupils start year 10 at age 14 and above) it puts them at a real disadvantage. This support is vital during KS3 to ensure they reach their potential in KS4.

Most children – whether reading at, below or above their actual age – need encouragement to read. This encouragement needs to come from school and home. The motivation to read and the availability of a good range of books will encourage them to maintain a reading habit. Sometimes, as children get older it's harder to set aside time to read and other interests take over, but if school and home deliver the same message, then we can keep the pleasure of reading alive into adulthood.

For more information about Accelerated Reader and how it is being used in school please see our website.

Yours Sincerely

Mr C O'Connor