



Accelerated Reader

Parent Guide



What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a software program which helps our students to improve their reading skills. It is possible to make up to four years progress for every year of participation.

How does AR work?

At the beginning of Year 7 we use a short computerised test to assess each learner's reading ability.

Learners then choose a book that is appropriate and challenging for their age and reading level. They read this book at home. When they finish the book, they take a quiz on the computer. The test consists of ten multiple-choice questions. Learners aim to score eighty-five percent or above on each quiz.

If your child passes the quiz, they will earn points and make progress towards their personalised targets for the term. The software provides detailed information about how much reading children are doing, what they are reading and how much they understand.

This information allows teachers and parents to guide learners towards greater success. Learners are assessed another two times in the year to monitor the progress of their reading age.

Why eighty-five percent?

If a student scores eighty-five percent or above it is an indication that the learner has read the whole book and has a good understanding of the content. Scoring eighty-five percent at an appropriate and challenging book level will further encourage progress within their reading skills.

However, scoring less than eighty-five percent indicates that the learner has either not read the whole book or has not sufficiently understood the content of the book. Class teachers will then have individual conversations with students who are scoring below eighty-five percent to put in place strategies to help and guide students in future quizzes or reading.

What books can my child read?

There are over one hundred thousand books on the Accelerated Reader programme and more as further titles are being added.

We have a selection in the school library as well as a reading list to guide each student. Students can read any book that has a quiz attached and titles can be searched on the following website: www.arbookfind.co.uk. You can search for individual book titles as well as genre, fiction, non-fiction, subject and reading level.

How does my child take a quiz?

Students can take a quiz at lunch and in after school homework club at school.

English teachers will show each class how to log on and what their usernames and passwords are for Accelerated Reader. Most usernames will have the following format: KJONE – K for the first letter of the students' forename and JONE for the first four letters of the surname. All passwords are the same and depend on the students' year group. For example, the password for Year 7 is year7 in all lowercase. In Year 8, the password is year8 in all lowercase.

Students can also take quizzes at home using the following link:

<https://ukhosted31.renlearn.co.uk/3216856/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s>

This will take them to the Renaissance Reading log in page where they use the same username and password as they would at school.

How many quizzes should my child take?

Students are expected to take at least six quizzes per term, which leads to eighteen quizzes over the academic year. This is only a minimum and students can take further quizzes if they wish to earn points and prizes for their house team.

How much should my child read every day?

Your child is expected to read for at least thirty minutes every day.

Research has shown that children who read for at least thirty minutes per day will have improved concentration, focus, vocabulary and memory. It will also aid your child in accessing texts within the English lessons that are challenging. It has been proven that those students who are reading for pleasure and for longer will perform better at school. This is not only in English but across all subjects in the curriculum.

What if my child is not a strong reader?

Your child will only be asked to read books that are at an appropriate level or challenge for them. Accelerated Reader works with all abilities and reading ages. When setting targets and reading levels, teachers will use the initial test as well as their professional judgement to ensure that all students are set at an appropriate level.

How do we support your child at school?

Within the classroom, we help your child improve their literacy skills with our reading protocols. These are used in every classroom and subject to aid understanding and comprehension of any text they read. They ensure each student is fully engaging with the text and questioning what is happening and why.

In addition to this, the tutor reads that are used for tutorial and reading lessons offer a variety of challenging and engaging fiction novels to read. These novels allow your child to access a range of ambitious vocabulary as well as a range of authors that they may not have known before.

This is also applied within English lessons where students are stretched by studying a range of fiction and non-fiction texts that also includes poetry. Once again, these are read using the reading protocols and help to break down any difficult words, phrases or ideas students may struggle with.

How can I support my child at home?

- Encourage them to read at home and talk to them about what they are reading.
- Search books on www.arbookfind.co.uk to see what books they may want to read.
- Encourage students to visit the library to find new and challenging books to read.
- Read aloud with them and ask questions about what they have read using the reading protocols (below). We use these same protocols in class to aid reading and comprehension.

During reading:

- Let's pause regularly to unpick the text. 
- Let's question the text. 
- Let's search the text for other descriptions, points and ideas. 
- Let's think about and imagine what is being described. 

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Robinson, Deputy Head of English, on hrobinson@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk