

October 2014

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am pleased to inform you that your child will be taking part in the Accelerated Reader Programme at Wood Green School. This programme has been specifically designed to improve students' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age. Year 8 will be the first students in school to use it and the whole year group will be taking part.

The Accelerated Reader programme works by identifying a student's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) through a sophisticated 'Star' test. Once students have their score they will be directed to books in the library which will be matched to their reading and comprehension ability. The books are ideally suited to improve their vocabulary and raise their reading age. They are also the popular books you may have at home and will find in the library, bookshops and online. As long as the student can find the appropriate level of book, they can read it whether it's from the library or their own. The school library cataloguing system, Oliver, will direct them to books but you can do this at home too by searching 'AR Bookfinder' online.

After finishing a book, students take an online quiz to ensure they have read the book and to demonstrate that they are meeting their targets. We will re-test students three times a year and increase their ZPD as they improve.

Being able to demonstrate strong reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum. Research shows clearly that pupils who read regularly for twenty minutes per day are far more likely to be successful at GCSE and beyond. Your child will be doing some of their reading in school time. At the moment, they read each week in tutor time and in library lessons. After half term, we will be introducing DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time in lessons. Across the week, 20 minute DEAR time will happen every day for Year 8 in which teachers and students will stop lessons for twenty minutes to enjoy a good book. **This means your son or daughter must have their AR book with them every day.** However, to help your child make really good progress, the expectation is that they should **also read their AR book at home.** Prolonged, committed reading like this has been proven to significantly improve students' reading ability and that is what we are striving for.

At Wood Green School we also want to appreciate how valuable and rewarding reading can be. We have a 100% board in the library, displaying the names of those students who have scored 100% on their quizzes; there is a 'Millionaire's Board' celebrating when they reach a million words read, and each tutor group will compete termly for the Reading Cup, awarded to the tutor group which has read the most words collectively.

If you have any questions about the programme please contact me: s.enright@wgsnitney.org.uk
Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this exciting project.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. S. Enright
Literacy Lead.