



IMPROVING LITERACY AT TOWNSEND

Townsend is a school that has developed a strong reading culture across the curriculum and one of the ways this has been implemented is through the Accelerated Reader Programme. This programme has not only been specifically designed to improve pupils' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.

Reading is a national priority for a number of reasons and being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for all subjects. **Research shows clearly that a pupil who reads regularly for at least 30 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.**

The 2020/21 programme will start in September when all pupils in year 7 will take a computerised test which will help us identify a selection of books that not only matches each child's ability, but will also challenge them and help develop their vocabulary. Students will choose books from the Discovery Centre and when they have finished the book they will take a short online quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read.

At Townsend we develop student's reading and comprehension skills through this scheme in years 7 and 8 so that by the time students reach Key Stage 4 and GCSE study, they have improved these skills and can apply them to revision work and accessing GCSE examination papers.

Reading assessment tests will be administered regularly over the year and progress closely monitored by English teachers. Some pupils may not initially achieve over 85% on their book's reading quiz. We have found that although they may be able to fluently read the text in the book, some students may need to further develop their understanding of the text. If it is felt that your child would benefit from further reading support, we run an intervention group and a paired reading session with sixth formers. We also want pupils to appreciate how valuable and worthwhile reading can be and, to this end, we reward students for their individual successes during this process.

Your child will be doing some of their reading sessions within school. **However, we would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/daughter reads regularly at home as this will help them progress. It would be most beneficial if they could read their selected Accelerated Reader book every day for 30 minutes.**

Another way we are encouraging reading at Townsend is through the 'Summer Reading Challenge 2020'. This scheme is run through all libraries in the UK. This summer the scheme is celebrating the joy of reading with the Silly Squad, a fun-loving crew of animal friends who love to laugh! You can find more details and sign up at your local library. For information go to <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

If you have any more questions about reading and/or the Accelerated Reader programme, please contact your child's English teacher in September.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.