

Stanborough



Mathematics & Computing Academy

Headteacher: Mrs M John

18th July 2024

Dear parent/carer

I am writing with an update about the Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme at Stanborough School. As you will be aware, Stanborough School is passionate in regard to reading and literacy. This year all students in Years 7-9 have accelerated reader lessons in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) as part of our wider literacy provision.

Current Year 9 students have been using the accelerated reader programme since Year 7, and we have seen some dramatic improvements in student reading ages.

This, however, is not enough. The challenge of literacy today is greater than ever. Literacy in secondary school must not simply be seen as a basket of general skills. Instead, it must be grounded in the specifics of each subject.

For this reason we have made the decision, for academic year 2024-25, as a school improvement priority to focus on reading in the classroom and more specifically how colleagues can support the reading process, within their subject area, in the classroom.

As part of this priority we have delivered extensive professional development to our teaching staff to enable them to better support student reading in the classroom. We have therefore made the decision to cease with AR lessons in Years 8 and 9, to give us more curriculum time in English. Only students in Year 7 will have timetable accelerated reader lessons in the LRC. However, students in Years 8 and 9 are still welcome and encouraged to partake in the accelerated reader programme, on a sign up basis. If your child wishes to continue on the AR programme they must complete the form here by Friday 6th September. We will then find an allocated time for them to do their first star reading test (Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level). They will be awarded reward points in the same way, with a silver for every successfully quizzed and passed book, and entry into the millionaire draw at the end of the year. They will be able to quiz and change their books during break time, lunchtime and after school. There will be no reading homework requirement for those who opt in, it is simply reading for pleasure.

<https://forms.office.com/e/LnuhhQrK0t>

For all students, we will continue to test their reading ability and provide yearly updates on their reading ages.

If you have any questions, please do contact me at zarmitage@stanborough.herts.sch.uk.

Kind regards

Mrs Armitage
Deputy Headteacher

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