

Accelerated Reader (AR) Guide

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is participating in a reading program called Accelerated Reader (AR) and this is a guide to help you understand what it is and how it works.

What is AR?

AR is a multimedia reading program for Year 7 and Year 8 students. Through reading comprehension tests, your child will be told his/her ideal reading book level. These books will not be too hard that he/she gives up out of frustration or too easy where he/she finds it boring.

How does it work?

Comprehension Tests

After your child takes a reading comprehension test, he/she is given a book level range (also known as ZPD). The test consists of 32 multiple answer questions. The test self-corrects so if your child gets an answer correct, the next question is harder whereas if your child gets a question wrong the next question is easier. Your child gets tested four times a year including at the beginning and at the end of the academic year.

Books

AR books are just ordinary fiction and non-fiction books that have had quizzes written for them. The school library's copies of AR books are labelled to help students find book ideal for their reading levels. The ZPD levels of the books determine the difficulty of the vocabulary. AR books also have a label on the inside cover page telling students how many points it is worth. The more words the book has, the more points it is worth. However, book difficulty and points are independent of each other.

Reading and Quizzing

When your child finds out their book level, he/she can choose a book from the thousands in the school library within that level. When they are finished, he/she will take an online quiz. This quiz tests to see if they have finished the book and more importantly if they have understood it.

Your child is expected to read a minimum of **25 minutes every day**. Staff are able to monitor how much your child is reading by the book quizzes they complete and pass. If your child is not reading at home, the school will invite them to attend a mandatory reading intervention for an hour after school every week until they have caught up.

Parent/Guardian Interface

There is a link called *AR Home Connect* on the school website (<http://thamesviewsch.co.uk>) where parents/carers can login and see how their child is doing.

The user name and password are the same ones that your child is given when doing a test or quiz. **Username** is the first letter of your child's last name and your child's first name put together. The **password** is your child's initials backwards.

For example:

Name: Bernie Fox

Username: FBernie

Password: FB

To automatically receive an email every time your child does a quiz on a book, please go to the *Email Setup* link on the top right hand corner of the screen and fill in your details. This is a fantastic way to keep informed on how your child is progressing.

Who runs this program?

The librarian, Mrs. Fox, is the administrator of this program. Your child has a library session once a week during an English lesson. Your child's English teacher continues the program during the rest of their lessons. Although this program is carried out during English lessons, all teachers of Year 7 and Year 8 students support it and may ask students to bring their books into class with them. **Your child is expected to have a book with them at all times.**

Questions

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mrs. Fox by email (v.fox@thamesview.kent.sch.uk) or phone (01474 566552 ex 1265). Mrs. Fox is also available during parents evenings so feel free to book a session.