

September 2025

Dear parent/carer,

RE: PARENT/CARER GUIDE TO ACCELERATED READER

In order to give every child the best possible opportunity to access all areas of the curriculum, our Year 7 and 8 pupils follow a programme called Accelerated Reader. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you and your child, as they engage with this exciting programme. Reading is a skill that all children need both in school and in their life beyond school, so it is important to us that we support with the development of these skills. The average reading age of a GCSE examination paper is 16 years old and therefore, we want to make sure your child has the best possible chance at success.

The Accelerated Reader programme is delivered by the English Department but is supported by all staff at CTA including Personal Development Tutors and our school Librarian.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a reading programme that allows teachers to support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own reading level, reads it and when finished takes a short online book quiz. They will receive instant feedback from AR and staff are able to track pupils reading progress through online reports. This allows staff to praise pupils' success and identifies those that might need additional support.

How does it work?

There are 2 main parts to the programme which work together to help pupils improve as readers.

1) Star Reading Test

- An online reading test which takes place 5 times during the academic year. The test uses multiple-choice questions which adjust depending on the pupil's responses. This usually takes 30 minutes to complete.
- The results of the test are generated quickly and provides the pupils Reading Age and ZPD (Zone of Proximal development).

What is Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge the pupil without causing frustration or loss of motivation. At CTA we refer to this as 'Book Levels.' Our library holds a large stock of AR books which are organised according to book level, making it easy for pupils to choose an appropriate book for their reading ability.

2) Accelerated Reader

- When your child has received their Reading Age and ZPD, they will need to pick a reading book.
- When they have completed their book, they will need to log into AR and take a Reading Practice Quiz.
- Pupils earn points from each book quiz that they pass.

How do we support reading in school?

- We provide a well-stocked library catalogued by book level.
- Each pupil receives a Record Card, where they record their Star Test results and Book Quiz scores.
- Every pupil receives a Points Target each half term.
- We reward success – House Points, Champion Reader passes, pizza lunches and more!
- There is dedicated reading time each week during PD time and Library lessons.

How can I support reading at home?

- Make time for your child to read at home, pupils should be reading for 25 minutes per day.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, ask questions about what they are reading, visit your local library.
- Read aloud to your child, share stories together.
- This website contains useful information:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/reading-tips/>

There is also more information available on our website:

<https://chaseterraceacademy.co.uk/school-life/accelerated-reader/>

If you have any questions relating to reading or Accelerated Reader, please email ar@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Miss H Pickerill

Head of English