

ACCELERATED READER (AR)

2015-16 END OF YEAR MINI REPORT

It has been another successful year for the AR programme. This important programme aims to encourage a love of reading among students, resulting in marked improvements in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. This in turn should lead to greater access to the curriculum and heightened opportunity for success with GCSEs.

All Year 7 and 8 students have spent 2 hours per fortnight in designated lessons in the library hoping to 'accelerate' their reading age to a good level by the end of Year 8.

As always, the programme begins in September with an initial 'Star Test'. This is an online interactive assessment of the students' vocabulary and understanding of text. Results from this are turned into a score which matches colour coded books in the library that are appropriate to the reading skills of the students. Students read books and then quiz on the content, using the ipads, which they enjoy. Stamps are used as an effective reward for 100% scores and various milestones (such as 1,000,000 words read). Other incentives include the glory of becoming 'Reader of the Month' and prizes/commendation in Year assemblies. There is healthy competition between individuals and tutor groups.

Students are re-tested during the year and progress can easily be monitored. In fact the AR programme generates a large quantity of varied data. So, for example, I can check on the following for each student: reading age (and growth in reading age), titles and the number of books read, quiz scores (and dates), how they rank within their tutor group, and number of words read. All data is available for inspection.

The progress of Pupil Premium students is closely monitored. Many have made superb progress with some truly outstanding individual results this year.

Pupil Premium AR highlights for 2015-16 include:

Six Year 7 PP students have seen an increase in their reading age (September-March) of between 1 year 7 months and 1 year 10 months.

Five PP students (Year 7 and 8) have successfully quizzed on over 40 books each since September.

One Year 7 PP student is second in her class on words read and quizzes completed successfully.

Other highlights include:

Megan Wingfield (8Wt) passed 4 million words read this year and becomes only the second student in Kingsmead to have achieved this feat.

Rebecca Leyland (7Wi) has passed quizzes on 59 books since September!

Six students in 7Fg have read between 1-3 million words and passed 20 million words as a tutor group!

Mitzi Bernini scored the largest growth in reading age ever seen at Kingsmead in one year of the AR programme – an improvement of 4 years and 9 months between September-March.

Two students in 7Pm – Theo Smy and Jago Yelland – saw their reading age increase to the highest score/level possible on the AR programme. An amazing achievement in Year 7!

A successful appeal for books to be donated to the library to support the AR programme (on our website and in lessons) resulted in dozens of good quality fiction books being received!

Please ask for further information/data as required.