12th September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Accelerated Reading (AR) Program - Year 7-9
Important information about expectations and rewards/support

I hope this letter finds you well. As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a love for reading and promoting literacy among our students, I thought it prudent to remind and inform you of how AR works and how you can support your son at home during the coming academic year. As you will be aware Reading is a fundamental, crucial life skill because it significantly enhances cognitive function, broadens knowledge and vocabulary, improves communication and critical thinking, boosts empathy and emotional intelligence, and reduces stress. These benefits are interconnected, creating a foundation for academic and professional success, as well as personal growth and a richer life experience. This is why at Brymore we ensure our boys have the best possible start to their lives by empowering them to read.

What is Accelerated Reading (AR)?
AR is a computer programme designed to encourage students to read more and to improve their reading comprehension skills. Students choose a book that falls within their ZPD level and when they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on a computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that the student has understood what has been read. If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most students are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace. Reading is the number one factor that contributes to a student's success both personally and academically.

What is a ZPD level?
A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a student without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each student will receive a ZPD after taking a Star Reading Test. It is important for students to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

Star Reading Test
Your student will have already completed a Star Reading Test. Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a student's English reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment programme that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each student's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

How will AR be delivered in school?
Over the next two weeks, students will be introduced to Accelerated Reading (AR) during their English lessons. They will complete an induction lesson in the library and take home their first AR book to read. Students will have an AR lesson once a fortnight in school.

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How can you support your student with AR?
We expect our students to be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes a day, as this is when AR is most effective in improving students' reading abilities. Please encourage your student to read regularly at home and engage them in conversation about the books they are reading. If you wish, you may even enjoy listening to your student read to you. They are never too old! You can keep an also monitor his progress through the AR login that he has been provided with, it can be logged into different technologies at different times so you can keep a close eye on how he is getting on.

Rewards for engagement
We have several different ways of rewarding those boys who have worked hard to meet their individual targets both through merits in their weekly reading lessons but also with badges and rewards trips.

<u>In Reading Lessons</u>:
Students who meet their weekly reading targets set in lessons (usually based around a number of pages that should be read during the week) can achieve 3 merits. If they exceed their target by 10% that number of merits increases to 5 merits.

January 'Brymore Cinema'
Students who have achieved 50% of their reading target by the first day back in January (INSET day) and who have never attended 'Reading Catch Up' will be eligible for the annual event of Brymore Cinema. Boys will be taken off timetable with some snacks and enjoy watching a film they have chosen as their reward for their hard work. They will also be able to wear non-school uniform for the day.

June/July 'Exceptional Trip'
Students who have achieved over 150% of their yearly target and who have never been in 'Reading Catch Up' will be eligible for this trip. They must also have never been in Reading Catch Up and be up to date with all prep, reading, English and Latin (if taking this course).

Support for those falling behind
During Reading lessons your son will be told whether he is in danger of being in Reading Catch Up the following week, thus giving him fair warning that he needs to increase his efforts. The percentage will include the book that he is currently reading as this is the fairest method of monitoring. I have attached the weekly percentage expectation to this letter for your information as well and it is visible in all English classrooms, the library and is attached on Arbor to their Reading Prep.

We will run the data every Monday morning and if students are not meeting the percentage target of that week, they will be expected to attend Reading Catch Up which is supervised by the English department. This will begin Week Beginning 29th September. This will potentially require your support as Reading Catch Up starts at 8.10 – 8.30 in Room 5. This support will start on Tuesday 30th September with each morning being set aside for your son to catch up with his reading. Therefore, by Friday the data will be run again to check that he has managed to catch up. If he still needs further support in terms of time as he still hasn't caught up, he will then be removed from Friday activities so that he has the best opportunity to be successful in this fundamental life skill.

Any queries or questions
If you need any clarification about expectations or how you can support your son, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following emails:

Victoria.Rogers@brymoreacademy.co.uk Head of English
ness.flack@brymoreacademy.co.uk Librarian
Vickie.Mcfall@brymoreacademy.co.uk Whole School Literacy Co-ordinator

Thank you for your continued commitment and support of the school and your son.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Rogers
Head of English

Accelerated Reader target timeline

Week commencing	Percentage of Target chronologically	Catch up	Key Deadlines
29th September	2.78	Anyone not yet started	Must have started (three weeks in)
6th October	5.56	5%	
13th October	8.33	8%	
20th October	11.11	HALF TERM	
27th October	13.89		
3rd November (INSET)	16.67	15%	15%
10th November	19.44	18%	
17th November	22.22	21%	
24th November	25	24%	
1st December	27.78	26%	
8th December	30.56	29%	
15th December	33.33	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
22nd December	36.11		
29th December	38.89		
5th January (INSET)	41.67	40%	January reward - 50%
12th January	44.44	43%	
19th January	47.22	46%	
26th January	50	49%	
2nd February	52.78	51%	
9th February	55.56	54%	
16th February	58.33	HALF TERM	
23rd February (INSET)	61.11	60%	
2nd March	63.89	62%	
9th March	66.67	65%	
16th March	69.44	68%	
23rd March	72.22	71%	
30th March	75	74%	
6th April	77.78	EASTER HOLIDAYS	
13th April	80.56		
20th April (INSET)	83.33	82%	
27th April	86.11	85%	
4th May (Bank holiday)	88.89	87%	
11th May	91.67	90%	
18th May	94.44	93%	
25th May	97.22	HALF TERM	
1st June	100	Anyone under 100%	July Reward - 150% or above in target