

St Monica's R.C. High School



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Headteacher: Mrs. A.M. Hainsworth, BSc

30th October 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am pleased to inform you that your son/daughter is currently taking part in the Year 7 Accelerated Reader Program. This program has not only been specifically designed to improve pupils' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.

Reading is a national priority for a number of reasons: being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum. Scientific research shows clearly that a pupil who reads regularly for 20 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a pupil's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary. Pupils will choose books from the LRC that fall within this range and, when they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. This enables us as teachers to have meaningful discussions about a pupil's reading: what they have learnt and how we can help them to develop.

Pupils are currently taking the baseline test (STAR Reader) in their English lessons which will identify their ZPD. This information will be communicated to parents and then your child can begin borrowing books from the LRC within their reading level range.

At St. Monica's, we employ a whole school approach to improving your child's literacy; silent reading sessions take place in form time at least once a week and there are also opportunities to read for pleasure in English lessons. Furthermore, Year 7 pupils are timetabled to have a lesson in the LRC every two weeks, which provides them with access to computers to complete their quizzes.

Our aim is to foster a love for reading and create a positive reading environment in order that pupils appreciate how valuable and rewarding reading can be. We will also reward pupils for their individual successes during this process.

However, if your child is to make the expected progress, we would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/daughter reads regularly at home for short periods of time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs O Spedding (Second in English)