

13th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Accelerated Reader - KS3 Reading Challenge

As part of our whole school literacy improvement plan York High School has introduced Accelerated Reader, an online computer system that helps to track the reading practice and progress of all our KS3 students.

During last term the participation of the students and the enthusiasm shown was fantastic, with students reading over 9 million words between them in just 5 weeks!

This term, to build on the great reading skills our students have been nurturing, and to encourage reading during this lockdown period, we are going to have a Prize Draw where students will be able to participate in a 5 week reading challenge, and everyone that qualifies will go in to a prize draw to win one of 3 x £20 Amazon Vouchers (1 voucher per year group).

The Reading Challenge is open to everyone in Years 7, 8 and 9 – and it couldn't be easier to qualify!

Each week students will need to:

- Read at least 1 book (online or physical book)
- Successfully complete at least 1 quiz (score at least 80%)

The qualifying periods will be:

- Week 1 – Monday 11th - Sunday 17th January
- Week 2 – Monday 18th - Sunday 24th January
- Week 3 – Monday 25th - Sunday 31st January
- Week 4 – Monday 1st - Sunday 7th February
- Week 5 – Monday 8th - Sunday 14th February

It's simple, 5 successful quizzes (1 per week) = 1 entry in to the prize draw

You want more chances to win? No problem, you can earn up to 3 entries students.

If a student reads and successfully quizzes 2 books per week (a total of 10 books) they will get 2 entries in to the prize draw, 3 books per week (15 books) they will get 3 entries.

During half term we will take a look at the results, work out who has qualified, and then draw our winners after the half term break!



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We understand that reading at home may be a challenge for some, but there are lots of ways students can access books.

- Books from the school library
 - Miss Linsey will be offering a book exchange service during lockdown where students can request 1 or 2 new books at a time via email.
 - Miss Linsey will then get them checked out and inform the students when they are ready for collection

- Books at home
 - Students can read books you already have at home
 - AR has over 33,000 books in its quiz data banks
 - To check if your book has a quiz visit www.arbookfind.co.uk/

- MyOn
 - Students in English groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been given access to MyOn, an online reading resource where students can read books and quiz straight after.
 - MyOn is accessible via the [link](#) on our website, or by visiting www.myon.co.uk/login
 - Miss Linsey is able to provide login reminders for any student that is having trouble accessing MyOn

- Kindle / Reading Tablet / Reading Apps
 - Read books on any reading tablet, or via reading apps
 - Places like Amazon often have a selection of books you can download for free
 - Lots of apps are offering free downloads during the lockdown period
 - Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk/ to check if your book has an AR quiz available.

Once they have read a book, please encourage your child to complete the AR quiz as soon as possible, not only will this mean they have a higher chance of scoring well as they will remember the book more clearly, it will also mean they can move on to a new book quicker and continue their reading journey.

AR quizzes are easily accessible using the portal link on the school website www.yorkhighschool.co.uk/lrc

In school we will offer all the support we can, with dedicated library lessons – even during lockdown we will have English lessons dedicated to reading and supporting students with quizzing, our book exchange service, plus Miss Linsey will be available everyday via email or Google Classrooms to troubleshoot any password, MyOn or Accelerated Reader issues.



As parents and carers there are plenty of ways you can support your child in their reading journey – here are just a few examples:

- Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes every day
 - We already ask students to read for the first 10 minutes of the school day, so why not encourage them to finish the day with 20 minutes of reading before bed – it will also help them to relax before they go to sleep.
- Talk to your child about their book – students that share information with you are more likely to engage with the book, remember what happens, and score well when they quiz.
 - Why did they choose that book?
 - Who is their favourite character?
 - What has happened so far?

Reading in school and at home raises self-esteem, increases vocabulary, builds good communication skills, and boosts school performance later on.

We are really excited by the progress students have made so far with AR, and we know that if we all work together, students, parents and school, we can make a difference.

If you would like any further information regarding the AR programme, troubleshooting login and quiz issues or would like to discuss your child's current reading scores, please contact Miss Linsey.

We look forward to finding out who is going to win those Amazon Vouchers and seeing your child's reading continue to grow.

Kind Regards,

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