



Aldercar High School

In pursuit of excellence

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Dear Parent,

I am pleased to inform you that your son/daughter is currently taking part in the Accelerated Reader Programme at Aldercar High School. This programme has not only been specifically designed to improve students' 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 student who reads regularly for 20 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.

The Accelerated Reader Programme works by identifying a student'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. Students will choose books from the library 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 student's reading: what they have learnt and how we can help them to develop.

As stated, at Aldercar High School, we also want students to appreciate how valuable and rewarding reading can be. To this end, we will reward students for their individual successes during this process.

As far as possible, the pupils will be conducting their Accelerated Reading sessions within school. We would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/daughter has their AR book with them in school every day and that he/she reads regularly at home for short periods of time as this will help them achieve. In addition, students will be reading their AR book for 20 minutes a day in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time within a weekly rotating lesson.

If you have any questions about the programme, or if you would like a personalised list of books that fit your son/daughter's ZPD, please do not hesitate to contact me at: scleese@aldercarhighschool.co.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs S Cleese
Teacher of English