



Dear Parent/Carer

At St. Matthias, we believe in the importance of reading and how it can improve learning and understanding. We know from research that children who read widely and often do better at school and in exams. Students who read often will do better across the curriculum. Therefore, we want our students to read more widely and more often. This is particularly important because of the massive impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children's reading ability and confidence. As a result of this, many children have fallen behind in their learning.

As a school, we are asking for your support in 'getting your children reading again' so that we can start to close the gap and make an impact to your child's reading ability and future prospects.

To help improve your child's reading we use the **Accelerated Reading Programme**. **We really need your support with this.**

Accelerated Reader (AR) is the reading programme that we use at St. Matthias to track students' reading progress and to monitor how effectively they are reading. Your child has chosen a book from our reading room to read at school. We read for 10 minutes at the start of every English lesson. Our Reading Room is open at break and lunchtimes, here students can sit and read in a relaxed environment.

To ensure students are reading successfully, all students are asked to take a quiz once they finish their reading book. This enables us to monitor whether students have read their book properly and understood it – which is of course how reading benefits your child's learning. Reading books are also part of your child's school equipment.

We will be rewarding those students who are reading regularly and passing quizzes. Examples of rewards include, monthly STAR reader certificates and prizes, pizza parties, and end of term visits- past visits have included: Harry Potter Studios, Safari Park, Black Country Living Museum, Cadbury World, Old Trafford, McDonalds, and Bowling.

### **So, what do we need from you?**

Please ask your child about Accelerated reader. All students have been shown how to take a quiz and should know their password and username.

Students are expected to read at home, please encourage this. We suggest 10 minutes reading at home every day to help them make progress with their reading – (more would be great!) Our English teachers will set this as Independent Study to ensure this is happening at home but your support with this would be fantastic.

If you would like any support or have any questions, please contact Mrs Paterson (our lead teacher for Accelerated Reader) at: [apaterson@st-matthias.com](mailto:apaterson@st-matthias.com)

Thank you for your support.

Mr Paterson

Assistant Headteacher

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