

Dear parent / career,

As Leader of Literacy, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Tupton Hall School and to inform you of the exciting reading programme which all key stage 3 students follow.

Your child will be participating in Accelerated Reader, which is a programme that helps teachers support and monitor children's independent reading. During the weekly Accelerated Reader lesson, your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book was understood. The results allow the teachers and library staff to help your child choose another book which is suitable.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them and these are books that are readily available in school and public libraries, book shops and homes.

According to research, children who read every day with a 90% comprehension rate see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child will have at least 15 minutes set aside for reading his/her Accelerated Reader book during each school day through a rolling programme called DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).

As with everything, performance improves with practice so anything you can do to encourage your child to read at home will also help them succeed at school. Here are some ideas:

- Read with your child. Regardless of your child's reading ability, it is a good idea to listen to your child read even though they are now at secondary school. Reading aloud is a different skill to silent reading and so practising in the comfort of home can really help.
- Read to your child. You are never too old to enjoy listening to a story.
- Ask your child questions about what s/he has been reading to aid understanding.
- If possible, visit your local library or bookshop on a regular basis.
- Let your child see you reading and discuss books that each of you have read.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Keightley
Leader of Literacy