

Educational Services

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Dear Parent \ Guardian

As part of an ongoing commitment to your child's literacy skills, Carrick Academy has invested in the Accelerated Reader programme for all S2 pupils. Accelerated Reader is a computer-based programme that encourages pupils to read books at an appropriate level and then challenges them with quizzes to test their understanding of the literature.

Pupils will undertake at least three "Star Tests" throughout the year to establish reading ranges and monitor progress. After each test, pupils will be given a reading range as opposed to a mark and this will enable them to select appropriate books according to their ability. As a general guide, pupils should select books at the lower end of their range and, if they do well in the quizzes, they can progress through this range. The library has a selection of both fiction and non-fiction books in the Accelerated Reader section of the library.

Pupils will have a weekly library period and will also have allocated time during class in order to participate. There will also be an opportunity for them to take a quiz at lunch-time. As this is part of the curriculum, pupils are expected to be reading at home and parents will be informed if pupils continually forget their book, fail to participate or are struggling to keep up.

Pupil participation is recognised in a variety of ways: certificates, house points, prizes and the chance to appear on our 'Word Millionaire' board. There will also be regular updates in our school newsletter and website. In addition to all of this, and most importantly, pupils see a fantastic improvement in their reading ability.

There is a further explanation which accompanies this sheet (called "Home Connect") but please do not hesitate to get in touch by phone or via my email below if you have any questions about how best to support your child with this at home.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Toner

Principal Teacher of English

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