

Glenlola Collegiate School

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7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At the start of this new term, we are writing to remind you about the vital importance of reading and your daughter's continued use of the Accelerated Reader programme. Reading is a life skill, and as with any skill, it requires regular practice to develop and improve.

The Accelerated Reader Programme and Targets

As you will now be aware, all Junior School pupils at Glenlola participate in the Accelerated Reader programme. Through this programme, each pupil is set **four personalised targets** across the year. These targets are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-based, and pupils should work towards achieving these targets as part of their extended learning in English – and especially during this new period of home learning. **Pupils were set a new target after the completion of the Winter exams and we have clear expectations that all pupils will continue to work towards this target at home.**

This means that, we continue to expect that all junior pupils will read for at least **30 minutes every day**, and to **take quizzes** on the books they have read in order to achieve their targets. Pupils' engagement with this process will continue to give teachers the information they need to monitor progress and make informed decisions to guide their future learning.

Videos and additional guidance on how to access and complete the quizzes can be found on each pupil's English Google Classroom. If pupils are unsure what their target is, this can be found in the 'Progress' section once they log into the AR website: <https://ukhosted32.renlearn.co.uk/2235137/>

Please bear in mind that pupil participation in Accelerated Reader is part of their ongoing English homework of 30 minutes reading per day. As such, completion of quizzes and performance against these targets is reflected in the effort grades pupils receive in each of their tracking reports.

Most importantly, however, we do want students to develop a love and appreciation of reading. When pupils participate enthusiastically, it is easy to see the benefits not just in English, but across all their subjects.

[Continued overleaf]

Access to Books during Lockdown

We recognise that accessing books through our own Library is not possible at present. We hope though, that many of our pupils received books at Christmas and can now enjoy reading and quizzing on their gifts. You can also visit <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> to check if your book has an accompanying quiz and browse the full range of Accelerated Reader quizzes. We would further remind parents that access to e-books is available via Libraries NI. Membership and access is completely free. Please visit <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/>.

Star Testing

We may need to, once again, ask pupils to complete Star Testing at home. The Star Test is an online reading test and no prior knowledge is required. This defines your child's reading level and Accelerated Reader target. Every pupil's reading level is a personal matter and pupils should not feel under pressure to share or compare this result.

We would greatly appreciate if parents could ensure this test is completed promptly **when instructed by your child's English teacher**. We would also ask that you further ensure that the test is carried out without any assistance from other household members, and ideally, ensure that a minimum of 20 minutes is spent completing the test. The test consists of approximately 34 questions and should be worked through with care.

Pupils should only ever take a Star test when instructed to do so by their class teacher.

Accessing Accelerated Reader from Home

In order to quiz from home every pupil will need to access Accelerated Reader using our school specific web address: <https://ukhosted32.renlearn.co.uk/2235137/>. This link has also been provided in your daughter's English Google classroom. The usage of any address other than this will result in pupils being unable to log on. Any enquiries about forgotten passwords or difficulties accessing Accelerated Reader should be directed to bmcmillan731@c2kni.net.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B McMillan
School Librarian

Mrs E Graham
Head of English