



Ref: LD/RHi/KB/Year 7 Accelerated Reader

12th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

As we come to the end of the academic year, I would like to thank you for your support with Year 7 reading, in particular Accelerated Reader. This was a new addition to our Year 7 offer this year, and I am delighted to tell you that, on average, pupils made 1 year and 2 months of progress between the months of November and July. 35% of Year 7 have read 10,000 words or more since the start of April 2021, with 32 pupils reading over 100,000 words! Pupils' highest-rated books were from the Harry Potter series, followed by 'Ultimate Football Heroes: Pogba', and The Hunger Games a close third.

However, reading does not end with the close of the academic year. It is essential that pupils continue to read over the summer. With 41% of our students reporting that they rarely read for pleasure, we need your help to continue to motivate them to read! I am also happy to confirm that Year 7 will continue to use the Accelerated Reader programme in Year 8. The school has made this investment as we are confident in the programme's ability to support readers of all levels. From September, we will be tracking your child's engagement with the website, and they will be expected to take a quiz on every book they complete. As such, it is important that they do not fall out of practice of reading on a regular basis.

We have gathered together a wealth of free resources which you can access on the school website at any time. These include audiobooks, ebooks, poetry and magazines. Local libraries have now re-opened their doors, and many of these also have a collection of ebooks and audiobooks which you can borrow in an app. Check out your local library to see what schemes they offer. Use this link for resources <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/reading/>

Pupils are encouraged to read anything they find interesting – it does not have to be a book. Manga, magazines, newspaper articles, graphic novels, non-fiction websites all help to develop pupils' comprehension and vocabulary. Recent research has shown that turning on the English subtitles (closed captions) while watching television doubles the chance of a child becoming a good reader.

Your child is also encouraged to enter the Barr Beacon School Summer Reading Challenge. To enter, all they need to do is the following:

1. Download the postcard template from the school website and print it out.
2. Read a book set in a different country, city, place or planet!
3. Draw a picture on the front of the postcard. Write a description all about where their book took them on the back.

Entries are to be submitted digitally by sending them to readingchallenge@barrbeaconschool.co.uk with the subject line 'Postcard Competition' by **10th September 2021**. We look forward to seeing their creative entries!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher



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