



Nunthorpe Academy

1 December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As you will be aware, strong reading skills are crucial to success in all subjects.

In Key Stage 3 English, we incorporate into the curriculum a one hour per week Literacy lesson that focuses on key vocabulary skills and reading. Within this, we operate a system called Accelerated Reader where we can track the average amount of engaged minutes per day that a student has accrued.

Students are instructed to read a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 are allocated this reading time during the day in school. Students in Year 9 are expected to read 20 minutes per day, at home as homework. As soon as a student finishes their book, they must log on to the Accelerated Reader website: <https://ukhosted65.renlearn.co.uk/1893931/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s> and take a reading practice quiz – this quiz is homework for all students in KS3 (in addition to the home-reading for Year 9). It is the only regular homework that will be given for English throughout KS3 and should be taken just as seriously as any other homework. The quizzes can be taken on a smart phone, tablet, laptop or desk computer. If your child does not have access to the internet, please let us know as we can make an arrangement through their form tutor to take the quiz at school.

Studies show that reading at least twenty minutes per day will positively affect your child's reading age. The reading age of students who read for 15 minutes or less either remain static or regress. All GCSE papers have a reading age of 15.5-16 therefore it is in their best interest to read as much as possible now in Key Stage 3, to be able to access these papers.

If a book is taking more than two weeks to complete, we suggest they may have one of the following problems:

- The book is too hard (make sure it is within their Zone of Proximal Development – see p13 of their planner) (You can check the level of a book by going on this website: www.arbookfind.co.uk)
- The book is too long (students often forget the beginning by the time they have reached the end)
- The book is boring them (change the book)
- They are not reading 20 minutes per day (this is homework)

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We have been back in school eleven weeks, so all students should have read and quizzed several books by now. The English staff will be allocating both behaviour points and achievements points for engaged minutes as follows:

- 0 engaged minutes = 2 BPs
- Fewer than 5 minutes = 1 BP
- 6 - 10 minutes = 0 APs or BPs but they will be monitored closely
- 11 - 15 minutes = 1 AP
- 16 – 19 minutes = 2 APs
- 20 minutes or above = 3/4/5 APs at the teacher's discretion.

These will be awarded every week in the Literacy lesson to make sure that the students are tracked, monitored and rewarded for their efforts or if needs be sanctioned for a lack of homework.

We now have our own FREE e-library: <https://nunthorpe.oliverasp.co.uk/library/Login> so all students have access to books. Instructions on how to use the library have already been emailed to parents/carers and placed on ClassCharts. Students use their Nunthorpe computer username and password for access.

Thank you for your anticipated support. Your child's progress is important to us.

If you have any questions at all, please do feel free to contact me at any time.
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Yours sincerely

Jennifer Loughran
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JL/RW