

## *Accelerated Reader*

At Upper Shirley High School we have a commitment to improving literacy across the curriculum. One proven way of doing this is by encouraging reading for pleasure. All learning starts with reading. Reading is a skill and, as with every skill, requires not just instruction but practice.

Every student in years 7 and 8 takes part in the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. Accelerated Reader enables powerful practice by providing data to monitor and personalise reading activities.

As part of the process, students are tested using a simple 10 minute online test. This gives an appropriate reading range for each student linked to books that are deemed neither too easy nor too challenging, so that students can enjoy the text and gain the necessary reading practice to improve. Students read books of their own choice and at their own level, and then take online quizzes that allow them to demonstrate their understanding. The books used are popular fiction titles already found in the school library. Students may also read books from home. To find out if a particular title is part of the Accelerated Reader programme, you can look on the AR BookFinder website at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

The main reward for success in AR will be the opportunities that come with great reading skills! However, we know that students like to get extra rewards for making good progress, so House points are awarded for taking quizzes, and prizes are awarded for effort and achievement.

In order to make the best possible progress, students should read for at least 20 minutes each day. Some of this will be done during the school day, during our Drop Everything and Read sessions, but please encourage your son/daughter to read at home too, perhaps by asking them to read aloud to you, or discussing the book that they are reading.

If you have any queries about AR, please contact Rosina Mount, the AR Co-ordinator at [Rosina.Mount@ushschool.org](mailto:Rosina.Mount@ushschool.org)