

# Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College

Principal: Mrs D Scott

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10th September 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Developing Reading in Year 7**

You may be aware that in Year 7, your child has a timetabled, fortnightly reading lesson in the Wilson Centre, our Learning Resource Centre. As we are sure you will agree, reading is an essential part of your child's development; indeed, there is a proven link between reading for pleasure and achievement across many subjects\*. Our aim in providing this important time for our students is:

- To foster a love of reading
- To increase reading ability and confidence
- To increase the breadth and variety of books read
- To increase progress across all subjects.

During their session, your child takes part in various reading activities and strategies, including independent reading, guided reading and whole-class reading.

## **Accelerated Reader**

Additionally, your child also follows the Accelerated Reader programme, which enables students to read a book of their choice within their ZPD reading level (Zone Proximal Development: i.e. the range of most appropriate books for students to read that are neither too easy nor too challenging for them) and take an online quiz to assess understanding. Students who successfully complete a quiz earn points and recognition of their progress.

The programme works as follows:

- Students take three reading tests during the year to measure starting points and progress. This provides us with their ZPD reading range
- Students choose and read a book from within their ZPD range
- When they have completed the book, students take an online quiz to assess understanding
- Students earn points, prizes awards and recognition for reading books and taking quizzes.

In addition to their reading lesson, students will also work towards making progress and earning recognition, awards and prizes within their form groups. During this time, your child will benefit from:

- 20 minutes silent reading, three times a week during form time
- Teacher intervention to support reading
- Regular recognition / awards assemblies.

## **Autumn Term Focus**

From week commencing 17 September, your child will begin the Accelerated Reader programme with a STAR Reading Assessment to assess their ZPR reading level. Feedback will be given in their next Wilson Centre reading lesson a fortnight later (week commencing 1 October) and students will select a book of their choice to read.

During the assessment period all Year 7 students will benefit from a collective read during form time. Progress Tutors will read 'You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum' by Andy Stanton (winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, the Red House Children's Book Award and the Blue Peter Book Award for the Most Fun Story With Pictures). Students will be able to take an Accelerated Reader quiz on the novel once the read is completed.

### **Student Expectations**

From week commencing 1st October, students will be required to:

- Bring their reading book to College everyday
- Take part in silent reading during form time and their Wilson Centre lesson
- Complete 20 minutes silent reading, three times a week
- Quiz as soon as possible after book completion ( quizzes can be taken in the Wilson Centre before/after school and during break and lunch)
- Choose a new book, so they have their reading book with them at all times.

### **How you can help**

Please could we ask for your support in encouraging your child to read as often as possible and ensuring they bring their book to College every day from 1st October. Students can choose from a large selection of books from the Wilson Centre as well as read their own books. Your support in helping our students make progress with their reading is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or require further information about Accelerated Reader or your child's reading, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0151 424 2139.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs L McComas**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College**  
**College**

**Mrs C Quick**  
**Learning Resource Lead**  
**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic**

\*Department for Education, 'Research Evidence on Reading for Pleasure', May 2012.