



**CLAIRE'S COURT  
MAIDENHEAD**  
An independent school for girls and boys

# Accelerated Reader



**RENAISSANCE™**  
CHAMPION SCHOOL

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT

LOYALTY

INTEGRITY

Claire's Court uses the Accelerated Reader (AR) reading development programme to engage pupils, motivate reading practice and improve reading progress. All pupils in Years 7 to 9 are enrolled in the AR programme.

### What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is an online reading scheme from Renaissance Learning, which manages and monitors independent reading practice, and encourages reading for pleasure for pupils of all abilities.

Your child chooses a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short book quiz on the computer (passing the quiz is an indication your child has understood what was read). AR gives both pupils and staff feedback based on the quiz results which the librarian then uses to help your child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

Reading levels for Accelerated Reader are determined by termly assessments using STAR Reading. STAR is a computer-adaptive test that quickly and accurately establishes pupil reading levels and attainment. Results are shared with parents on the Parent Portal.

Pupils using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Our librarians help pupils choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

### How can your child find interesting and appropriate books to read?

AR BookFinder [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) is an exciting, free, online book-searching tool. Pupils and parents can quickly and easily generate book lists that contain titles based on criteria such as book level, topic or interest level, in the knowledge there is an Accelerated Reader quiz available for each book.

## The rewards of reading

All pupils are encouraged to achieve Word Millionaire status, i.e. to read a million words or more in their current school year. Word Millionaires are then given individual Book Point targets to encourage reading more complex texts. High book quiz scores are rewarded with House Points and a Reading Trophy is awarded to the House that has read the most words each term.

## Claire's Court is an AR Champion School

Claire's Court has been awarded AR 'Champion School' status by Renaissance Learning. Champion schools are identified by looking at the school's adherence to best practises, such as engaged reading time, percentage of students getting 85% and above on quizzes, as well as the percentage of students reading at the appropriate level.

## How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you have read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child has understood what was read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader and building a life-long love of reading and learning. Make reading a family affair!

## Research

The National Literacy Trust has published an independent research report\* into the reading habits of students using Accelerated Reader.

“Children and young people who use Accelerated Reader tend to enjoy reading more, do it more often and think more positively about reading than their peers who do not use Accelerated Reader. They are also more likely to see a link between reading and their successes.”

- Dr Christina Clark, National Literacy Trust

\*Clark, C and Cunningham, A. (2016) Reading Enjoyment, Behaviour and Attitudes in Pupils who use Accelerated Reader. National Literacy Trust and Coventry University.

Your Librarians are:

Mrs Claire-Louise Cavaciuti (Head Librarian)

Dr Sarah Dunstan (Senior Boys Librarian)

Ms Karen Tadorelli (Senior Girls Library Assistant)