



Literacy matters at Walthamstow Academy and research has shown us time and time again that parental support and involvement with a child's learning is crucial in helping them to fulfil their potential and be their best. This leaflet gives ideas and suggestions on how you can best support your child with literacy.

Top tips for helping your child to love reading:

- Students at Walthamstow Academy are expected to read for at least twenty minutes every day at home. Encourage them and help them to make time for it. Discuss what they are reading with them; what they like/dislike about it. Do not force them to read a book they are not enjoying. Instead, help them to choose a book that matches their interests
- Having books, newspapers and magazines around at home makes a difference to how interested children are in reading
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and articles on the internet as well as books
- Let your child choose what to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you have enjoyed and why
- Make time to read together
- Buy books as presents
- Encourage your child's interests in certain texts by watching film adaptations and programmes on T.V that have a connection with the book they like
- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, billboards, signs, menus, instructions, TV guides and articles online. Draw their attention to how the language (words) has been used
- Send them an email or text with web links for: book recommendations, film and game reviews, interesting news stories etc.

Supporting reading at KS3 & KS4:

- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary (this could be an online dictionary)

- Cut out newspaper articles, print online articles or watch programmes/films about topics your child is studying
- Encourage your child to go to Homework Club after school in the LRC where they can get help with reading and understanding homework tasks/topics
- Read with your child – this could be a novel that you read together each night, a short story or even non-fiction. As you read, ask them to: make **predictions** about what they think will happen next, **clarify** new or complex words, **summarise** what you have read so far and get them to think of **questions** they might have about the text, characters or themes etc.

Try to make time to:

- Talk about everyday topics, encouraging your child to be the ‘expert’ and use the technical terms they are learning at school. For example, your child could tell you about tomorrow’s weather using words such as precipitation, humidity and isobars, or they could explain how a circuit works when you switch on the light
- Look up technical words you or your child don’t recognise from their work in a dictionary or on the internet and make it your word of the week. When you have a list of new words you could test your child on them
- Talk to your child about reading. Talk about what they enjoy reading and help them to make time for it
- Visit your local library to borrow a book, audio book or related film that they are interested in

Accelerated Reader for KS3

Accelerated Reader is a computerised reading program for students in Years 7-9 that tests reading comprehension. Students select books on their reading level, read independently, and take an independent comprehension test on the computer. Each book is worth a certain number of points based on its length and reading level. Pupils will be using this throughout the year and will be competing for prizes and notoriety. See website details below.



Useful Websites:

Accelerated Reader: <https://ukhosted21.renlearn.co.uk/2243311/> This is our KS3 reading programme where students can quiz on the books that they have read.

Book finder: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx> Here students can search for books that they might want to read as well as find out about the reading age and ZPD of a particular book.

The National Literacy trust: <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/events>

BBC Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

The Guardian Online: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

National Children’s Literacy Website: <http://www.child2000.org/lit-tips.htm>

This UN World Food Program site offers a great vocabulary-building trivia game for students at any level. Every time a question is answered correctly, FreeRice donates ten grains of rice to deprived communities around the world: <http://freerice.com/category>