



North Oxfordshire Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



Reading at North Oxfordshire Academy

Reading at NOA

At North Oxfordshire Academy we are proud to have a strong ethos and culture of reading. We understand the value of fluent reading and reading for understanding and educational purposes and we are also keen for our students to develop a wider love of reading that will last them a lifetime.

Academy Tracking of Reading

The academy has a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all students at NOA are supported towards reading at their chronological age.

The academy uses the New Group Reading Test to assess each student's reading age on entry to the academy and at the end of Year 7 and Year 8.

There is no more crucial skill for success in any subject than reading, so being able to accurately assess and monitor this is essential. NGRT is proven to deliver a reliable assessment of reading comprehension, set against national benchmarks. Using it regularly helps to quickly spot problems that will hold back a child's progress so that timely and appropriate interventions can be put in place. Students' reading ability is also monitored via English Language assessments twice per year, and English teachers monitor students' reading via Accelerated Reader. (See Accelerated Reader information).

N.B. the reading age created by the STAR reader tests which are part of the Accelerated Reader program are not used for reporting by the academy as they are not nationally standardised. They are used by the academy's Literacy Coordinator and SENCO as an additional measure to ensure that no student in need of support is missed.

If your child has a reading age of more than 6 months below their chronological age, and does not have SEND intervention*, they may be placed on a reading support programme. At NOA these include:

- STEP UP Reading intervention in the academy's success unit
- Small group vocabulary teaching
- Small group reading comprehension teaching
- Reading support within the curriculum and via enrichment
- Read Write Inc. Fresh Start programme

*If your child has a special educational need and a reading age below 10.5 they will be placed on the SEN register and supported by the inclusion team on one of the following interventions:

- Rapid Reader
- Toe by Toe
- Talisman
- Literacy Planet
- Stareway to Spelling

All of the above interventions can only work if students are encouraged to maintain their reading at home. We expect parents to be committed to supporting the improvement of their child's reading at all key stages.

Parent meetings will be arranged for students who consistently fail to make progress in their reading despite intervention and support.

Reading for Pleasure



Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a computer based program which we use in the curriculum to support students with their reading in Years 7-9. The program enables students to make informed choices of reading that is appropriate and challenging to their reading ability and interests. Students are also able to quiz books they have read to win awards. All this promotes confidence in their reading and engages them in reading in a fun way. Achievements are celebrated in assemblies and in English lessons with top quizzers and students who make it to the 'Million Word Club' being awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze awards and the coveted academy 'Reader' badges.

Reading in English and Tutor Time

All English lessons in Year 7, 8 and 9 start with 20 minutes of reading for pleasure. This is also an opportunity for your child's English teacher to talk to your child about their reading choices. Once every term, students will have time in English lessons to quiz books they have read and to peruse the wide range of books in the library.

One Tutor Time period is also dedicated to reading for pleasure in Years 7, 8 and 9 and students visit the library with their tutor team once per term.

The student book club is held every Friday in the library and all students are welcome to attend. Students in this group also take part in The Carnegie Medal Book review with a second group of Scholar Students participating in the review with a member of the English Faculty.

Extreme Read Challenge

Each year new Extreme Read Challenges are set to encourage reading for pleasure.

Year 7 students are set the 'Read Twelve Before you are Twelve' challenge where students are challenged to read 12 books of their choice before the end of their first year at the academy. Year 8 and Year 9 students have a Reading Passport Challenge to encourage their reading around different genres.

All students can challenge themselves to read the '50 Books Every Child Should Read' before the end of Year 9 and all year groups can enter the 'Get Caught Reading' and 'Extreme Read Photo' prize draw and competition.

More details of the current challenges and the prizes to be won for their completion can be found on 'The Literacy Lounge' pages on the NOA Website.

Enrichment of Reading

Reading is also celebrated with a programme of author visits and workshops and students are given the opportunity to meet with authors, ask questions of them and purchase books to be signed as a keepsake of their visit.

We promote cross curricular reading in our 'Reading the World' subject days where all subject areas deliver reading connected to their subject, and in our annual World Book Day celebrations.

Academy Library

The library is instrumental in ensuring that students have access to the right books for them. In addition to this, the knowledgeable and welcoming librarian arranges a number of visits including those to local literary festivals, book award ceremonies and author talks and workshops. Several reading and creative writing competitions are also run through the library throughout the year and information about these can always be found on our website and on our library twitter account @Noalibrary.



Banbury Literary Live

We also run an annual literary event – Banbury Literary Live - which is a fantastic event that brings together the spoken and written word in a celebration of author talks, activities and performances. There are lots of opportunities for students to take part behind-the-scenes as well as in the capacity of a visitor so be sure to encourage your child to get involved!



Supporting your Child with their Reading at Home

All students are encouraged to take their reading books home with them and read independently. It is recommended that your child spends at least 20 minutes per day reading at home.

You could discuss your enjoyment of reading with your child and make suggestions for their reading. Accelerated reader includes a section of recommended books for your child to read which is based on your child's interests and ability as a reader.

Additionally, there are lots of brilliant reading lists available on-line for students and their parents to choose from. The School Reading List website is particularly good as its reading lists are regularly updated and feature books for all interests and for readers of all abilities and interests.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>

Encourage your child to stick to a book even if they are struggling to get into it. Perhaps try reading to them or reading parts of the book each-you read a page and they read a page. Varying how you read can be really fun: you can take parts and read dialogue together; ask questions about chapters and characters and events; get them to predict what might happen next or make connections between what they are reading and real world events.

Just before bed is a great time to encourage your child to read. Get them to turn off electronic device and pick up a book- it will save on the electricity bill as well as proving for a relaxing time before going off to sleep.

Do visit 'The Literacy Lounge' on the NOA website and follow our Twitter @NOALibrary for more information and inspiration about reading.