

Colchester County High School for Girls

A Specialist Science College &
A Specialist Language College



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Our ref: DA/AA

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Dear Parent

As you may have seen from your daughter's lesson schedule Year 7 are timetabled once a fortnight to spend an hour in the library taking part in the Accelerated Reader Programme. Research has shown that it is easy for reading for pleasure to drop off in Year 7 as students face competing demands on their time. However, we believe that it is vital to encourage all of our students to continue to enjoy reading for a variety of reasons. Thursday's registration time also provides an opportunity when the whole school reads in 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) Time.

At the start of the year each student takes a Star Reading test in order to ascertain her current reading level. The Accelerated Reader Programme works out a ZPD (zone of proximal development) and students are encouraged to select some reading books from this range. Reading for just twenty minutes a day on average from this range should help students to develop their reading skills. After each book is completed students are asked to take a quiz which allows us to check their comprehension. Our expectation is that each student will complete at least two quizzes per half term. An element of friendly rivalry is introduced through form competitions with fun prizes.

It is never our intention to limit what students can read but some books with a white label are not allowed to be taken out by Year 7 students because of the content matter being deemed too adult. Our librarians, Mrs Cox and Mrs Craig, are very happy to advise students and parents and they can be contacted via the school office.

Although we are a grammar school with high achieving students, we do not expect all students to be reading classics in this reading time. The focus is very much on reading for pleasure and keeping up the 'reading habit' which we hope was instilled in their previous schools. Of course if students choose to read Dickens or Jane Austen we will not discourage them. Parents can view their daughter's reading progress through 'Renaissance Home Connect' available through the school website's Moodle link.

I hope this information is useful and thank you for your support in encouraging your daughter to read regularly.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Armstrong
Teacher of English



Science

