

The Library

The library is a welcoming space for all pupils where they can come and read, peruse a variety of genres of books and use the facilities for homework and research. The library is equipped with 32 iPads which are for use by pupils, and as well as having reading books and magazines, we are also building up a reference section on a variety of subjects as well as having a base of revision guides. There is also the opportunity for our GCSE students to come, look, and work on practice papers in preparation for their exams.

The environment is set differently to a classroom, and although we have tables and chairs for workspaces, we offer the opportunity of seating on beanbags, a settee and cubed seating in order to offer that opportunity to relax and enjoy the space.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 have one library lesson a week where they come to the library to read and take part in a program called Accelerated Reader. The aim of this is to encourage an enjoyment of reading and to encourage pupils to look at a variety of genres. Once pupils have completed a book, they take a quiz on it, where they can earn points and words, which work towards the reward system, which is displayed in the library.

Pupils are encouraged to use the library so that they have reading material for DeaR, a new reading initiative within the school. Books are updated regularly so that pupils have the opportunity to read the latest offerings from their favourite authors, and there is a wish book where pupils can write down any book they would like to see in the library, and we do our best to purchase these requests.

The library is open from 8:15am every morning, as well as being open during breaks and lunchtimes. There is also the opportunity to use it after school, as it is open until 4pm.

If you wish to discuss the library or Accelerated Reader in more detail, then please do not hesitate to contact our Learning Resource Assistant, Mrs Cussons. You can telephone the Academy or contact her directly through email at kcussons@skegnessacademy.org

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated reader is a program that is designed to encourage pupils to read books. It is currently used by our year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. The program allows staff to support and monitor your child's reading practice. Your child will be encouraged to choose a book at their recommended level and they then read this at their own pace. Once complete, they will take a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they have understood.

STAR Reading is an online test used to measure your child's reading level. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes around 20 minutes. Each test is individual as it adapts to your child's level based on each question they answer. Your child will be tested at the beginning of Term 1 to establish their starting level. They will be retested each term to see if their level has changed at all so that they can choose the books that fit the level most suitable to them at that time.

Your child will be able to choose from the huge selection of books that we have in the school library. Books will be colour coded so that when your child knows their level, they will be able to go to the section that is best suited to their level. If your child is reading a book at home they can bring this into school and we can check if it is on the AR system and if it is at the appropriate level. Each book in our library will have a sticker on the inside that has three categories that will help your child to make a suitable choice.

These are;

Book level – This represents the level of difficulty of the text. When your child takes their STAR test it will tell them the book level they need to be choosing from. This is known as the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

Points value – Each book has its own points value based on the word count. Your child will earn points by passing quizzes. If your child gets 100% on the quiz then they will receive the full amount of points awarded to this book. Your child will be set a personalised target each term of how many points they should be trying to achieve, they will be encouraged to meet, or even surpass this.

Interest level – This is used to indicate which age group a book is suitable for and this is based on content and themes.

Once your child has completed their book, it is important to test within 24 hours of completion. Testing can only take place within the Academy. There will be a number of times that they can do this throughout the school day. The library will be open from 8:15am each morning and computers will be available for testing. There will also be opportunities during break times, lunch times and after school to test. Tests will vary on the number of questions asked, depending on the length and complexity of the book. Once the test is taken, if a child achieves 60% or above, the screen will show how many points they have achieved for this book and how many words they have read. They can view a TOPS report which shows them how well they have done and shows their progress so far, allowing for instant praise from the staff member.

Rewards for reading

Although we do believe that reading is its own reward, we realise that sometimes pupils need incentives to keep them on track and aiming high. With Accelerated Reader we have come up with a number of ways that pupils can achieve rewards for succeeding in reading;

Individual awards

- Reader of the week is given to one pupil in each class to recognise their achievement in reading for that week.
- Word Warrior of the week is given to the pupil who has read the most words that week.
- Star Achiever award is given out each term to the pupil in each class, who has put that extra effort in throughout the whole term.
- Champion Reader award is given out to one pupil in each year group, each term and celebrates the pupil who has achieved the most 100% pass rates in quizzing that term.

Whole class awards

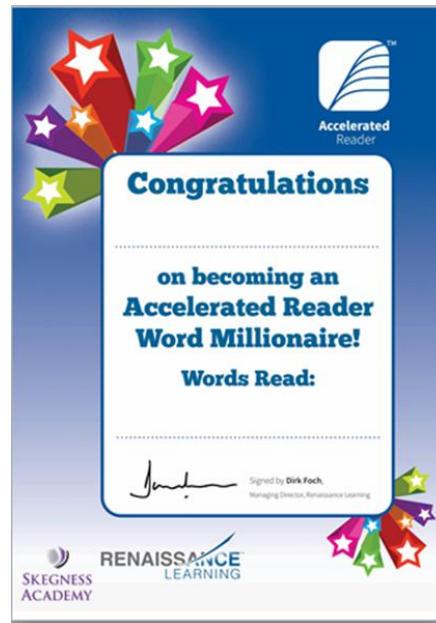
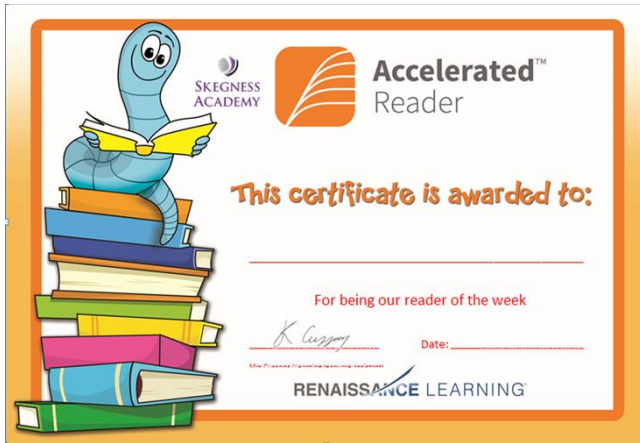
- Pass the trophy is a competition where the classes compete, and the class that has achieved the most that week, gets to take the trophy back to their English class, and has to work just as hard the week after to stop another class winning the trophy from them.

Awards everyone can work towards

- Points club awards – these are certificates given to pupils when they have achieved a certain amount of points through book quizzing.
- Generic certificates given to recognise achievement in reading. These are awards that will be given to your child for something special they have done while accessing AR.
- We also have termly raffles. Pupils will get a raffle ticket each time they get 85% or above in an Accelerated quiz. At the end of the term, a ticket is drawn and the winner receives a £5 book token.
- Millionaires club is where pupils are presented with a badge and certificate for having read one million words.

Special awards

- We also have a special award that pupils can work towards but they have to put in that little bit of extra effort. The Wise Owl awards come in bronze, silver and gold. In order to earn these you need to complete a literacy piece of work after each book you have read. There are different rules that you have to follow for each award and these are explained in the library.



Some quotes from Renaissance Learning UK regarding our library and our Learning Resource Assistant.

“We’ve recently carried out a customer review for Skegness Academy and have identified your school as a demonstrator of best practice.”

“It’s wonderful to see the school’s reading culture and effective assessment strategies are being utilised so successfully.”

“It’s genuinely one of the most approachable and attractive libraries I’ve seen from an AR library. The detail within some of the display boards is just phenomenal and you can see that you’ve put your passion and craft into each section of the library.”

“It’s a pleasure knowing that there are passionate individuals who go above and beyond their call of duty when it comes to nurturing a love for reading.”