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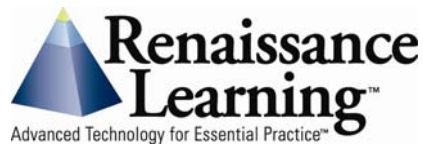
Ofsted report highlights AR schools as ‘outstanding’

A recent Ofsted publication asked the question “*Why do some schools succeed brilliantly against all the odds while others in more favourable circumstances struggle?*” The report produced evidence-based answers to this question by drawing on the practice, experience and ambition of 12 secondary schools – identifying the ways in which they achieved excellence, sustain excellence and share excellence.

It is interesting to note that three of these schools have been using Renaissance Learning’s acclaimed Accelerated Reader¹ program for some time to raise literacy standards. One of these schools is Bartley Green School in Birmingham. “*Since starting Accelerated Reader two years ago we have really noticed a difference in our pupils reading,*” says Jayne Croshaw, Librarian at the school. Each Year 7 and 8 class at the school have a lesson of Accelerated Reader each week, which takes place in the Learning Resource Centre.

One of the key themes identified by the Ofsted report is achieving through a specialism, which is closely linked to improving behaviour through the development of a curriculum and an approach to teaching and learning that engages very diverse students and helps raise attainment. At Bartley Green, the school’s key specialism of technology covers four key subject areas, and is perfectly suited to Renaissance Learning’s web-hosted Accelerated Reader program.

The report identifies that lessons at Bartley Green demonstrate consistently good practice, evidence of continuing professional development and rigorous performance management. The automatic assessment and detailed analytical reports that are instantly generated as soon as a student takes an Accelerated Reader quiz are instrumental in providing important feedback for teachers, students and parents. Jean adds: “*The reports allow us to check on pupil’s progress on a regular basis and reward or encourage pupils who are not meeting our standards.*” The positive impact the introduction of Accelerated Reader has had on literacy standards has also extended to the pupils’ vocabulary and grammar.



Dirk Foch, Managing Director of Renaissance Learning UK Ltd, comments: *“At Renaissance Learning we have always been confident in the role Accelerated Reader can play in raising literacy standards, but for three of Ofsted’s 12 most outstanding secondary schools to be using the program is an excellent endorsement of its potential.”*

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Notes to Editors

1. Currently used in over 2,000 UK schools, Accelerated Reader is an accurate and continuous progress-monitoring system that measures both the quantity and quality of individual book reading.

About Renaissance Learning UK Limited

Renaissance Learning UK Limited is a subsidiary of Renaissance Learning Inc, a company founded in Wisconsin (USA) in 1986. Renaissance Learning UK Ltd is a leading provider of educational solutions to primary and secondary schools across the United Kingdom.

Adopted by more than 75,000 schools, Renaissance Learning’s advanced technology makes the practice component of a school’s reading, maths and writing curriculum more personalised and effective than ever before. The company’s hosted and web-delivered Accelerated Reader Advantage and Accelerated Maths Advantage programs are used successfully by well over 220,000 children in the UK every day to help them improve their results and achieve a life-long love of reading.

Renaissance Learning produces software that provides teachers and pupils with immediate access to information on academic performance. This information technology provides timely and reliable feedback that enhances individualised instruction, creating a better learning environment for more motivated pupils.

Renaissance works closely with the National Literacy Trust and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, and is supported by best-selling authors for children, such as Jacqueline Wilson, Malorie Blackman, Peter J Murray and GP Taylor.