

NEW READING SOLUTIONS PACKAGE

Renaissance Learning has re-designed its primary and secondary school reading products to create a new literacy solution that it claims can help schools achieve two year's reading growth in one year.

Accelerated Reader Advantage, bundles their software with a new web-based, hosted management system to store and maintain data, a link to each school's management software, professional development to teach best practice, plus installation and technical support.

Product training, coaching and the services of an implementation specialist are added to help each school achieve Certification – a scheme developed by the company to measure and reward schools who implement the programs fully.

"We know that schools who really get behind the program see amazing results. This new package gives them everything they need to achieve that success", says company spokesman James Bell.

The new web-based version of the well known Accelerated Reader program which motivates children to read books, contains 8,000 on-line quizzes to test comprehension, vocabulary and higher order thinking skills, with new quizzes being added daily.

Also included is software that speedily pinpoints the reading levels of individual pupils and classes. By using it before and during literacy programmes, pupils are directed to books at the right level for their ability, growth is tracked and struggling individuals are quickly identified so that targeted intervention can take place.

Automatically generated reports help staff measure performance and progress towards targets and show the progress of individuals, classes and year-groups. School-to-home reports help staff to show parents individual pupil growth compared to the average.

The new web-hosting arrangement makes these solutions available online at any time from any computer with an internet connection and relieves staff from the burden of storing and maintaining data.

Company spokesman James Bell says: "By providing a true picture of the abilities of the class and the individual, the teacher can focus on the pupils that need support most.

Meanwhile, the self-running software and reports help other pupils to progress at their own pace, keeping them challenged.

“There is real potential here to replace the older order of teaching to the average ability with a new order of truly personalised learning, by harnessing the power of instant data and automated tools with best teaching practice.

“It makes learning fun, teaching exciting and accelerates reading growth for all pupils including those with special needs, those with English as a second language and those who are gifted and talented”.

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