

## Accelerated Reader™ Staff Booklet

### Why Accelerated Reader?

This program helps motivate students to read, by guiding them to books that are just right for them and promoting rewards for their progress. Students can then build on their reading skills and enjoy reading, becoming confident, independent readers who read for pleasure.

### How does it work?

Students take a STAR Reading™ test to assess their reading level. The results of this assessment provide valuable information for teachers. The STAR™ test results include a Reading Age, English National Curriculum Level for Reading and a recommendation of the ideal readability level of books each pupil should read at, called a ZPD.

Students then choose and read a book from the school library at around the beginning of their own ZPD range. Once they have finished, they go to the website, Renaissance Place™, and take an Accelerated Reader quiz on the book. Their percentage correct score and the points that are awarded for passing a quiz are highly motivating for students. Teachers give students praise for achievement and decide on incentives and rewards. With staff guidance and reviewing their latest score, students then make an informed decision about the next book to choose.

### Does this take the place of other reading or support?

Accelerated Reader is not designed to teach reading skills or replace any other methods and/or reading in the school. It supports and enhances reading practice, guiding students to read books at a difficulty level which is right for them, providing motivation and enjoyment, which will lead to greater acquisition of reading skill.

### What role will staff have in the program?

Teachers will need to make sure all students on the program take the online STAR Reading test and take time to look at the results. They should then inform students about their ZPD and start them on reading books and taking Accelerated Reader quizzes. Teachers will need to monitor student progress using the data collected in the reports. Feedback to each individual is vital with positive messages and rewards given when students do well on quizzes and guidance given to a more appropriate book choice as necessary.

### What things will help make this program a success?

1. Time for students to read and quiz regularly in the school day is essential. Renaissance Learning™ recommends 20 minutes a day as a minimum of scheduled independent reading time.
2. Books for all readers at all abilities across all interests.
3. Time for teachers to monitor results in order to appropriately guide students in their next book choice where necessary and give out rewards where due that are meaningful to the student.
4. Personalised termly targets for students to achieve



## Accelerated Reader – Getting Started

To log on to Renaissance Place™ go to the following website which is:

There should be a direct link to this on the shared area/favourites/desktop of all computer desktops for pupils and teachers.

To log in at the teacher section:

Your user name is:

Your password is:

Once you are into the site, you will be able to see information on the Resources and Reports containing results for your own students in STAR Reading and Accelerated Reader.

Your students will log in at the pupil section. You can guide them to use the 'find user name' link on the site to help them log in. You can find a list of your students' user names and passwords in the Courses and Classes section.

Any questions please contact your project manager who will be able to help or direct you to support at Renaissance Learning. The company telephone number is 0207 184 4000 and please also use the 'Live Chat' feature in the top right-hand corner on Renaissance Place.

### Useful websites:

[www.renlearn.co.uk/customer-zone](http://www.renlearn.co.uk/customer-zone)

The Renaissance Learning company website provides information about the program and contains useful resources in the Professional Development > Training Literature section.

[www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

The AR™ search engine for all books which have a quiz available. Teachers, librarians, students and parents are recommended to look here to search for books by book level, topic, subject area, author, particular title etc.

Your Home Connect™ website is found here:

Which we recommend is launched when you are fully up and running. Students log in at school or at home with the same user name and password as Renaissance Place. They will be able to see a bookshelf of all of their books they have read and quiz results. There is an information letter on Renaissance Place that you can send home to parents when you are ready.