



READING & LITERACY

By Mrs Emma Best, Leader of English

This academic year, we have been busy launching Accelerated Reader within English lessons at Key Stage 3.



Feedback has been positive and we are pleased to see many of our students making excellent progress already. Looking at the three year groups as a whole, we already have 5% more students reading **above** average reading age when compared with the start of the academic year. Further information about Accelerated Reader may be found [here](#).

*The first term of Accelerated Reader in 2021-2022 produced a very impressive **21,896,786** words read by our three winning Form Groups across Years 7, 8, and 9!*

We have been delighted to hold VIP pizza lunches to celebrate the success of students, and the pleasure of reading. These have been held in the Library at Windmill Lane with many happy readers. We invited the Form Groups who had accumulated the most read words during the Autumn 2021 term.

7S read 8,921,121 words
8W, read 7,151,927 words
9M2 read 5,823,728 words

I am so pleased to be able to share such fantastic news. It is incredibly rewarding to see our students challenging themselves and developing their vocabulary through a growing love of reading.

Research from the National Literacy Trust, published recently, shows levels of daily reading among children and young people in sharp decline: just 25.8 percent of children said they read daily in their free time in 2019, the lowest level the National Literacy Trust recorded since it surveyed children in 2005.

Margaret Atwood, award winning author, said, 'A word after a word after a word is power.' At Imberhorne, we believe that by sharing our love of reading and championing reading for pleasure, we are empowering our students.

While it is sadly true that reading for pleasure is in decline, our students are working towards GCSE papers with a reading age of 17 years.

Arguably, more importantly, in supporting our students to develop a love of reading, we are supporting their mental health and ability to demonstrate empathy. Reading allows us time to pause from the fast pace of life, to take time away from screens and to immerse ourselves in a story (whether that is fictional or non-fictional).

World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March is set to be an event not to miss at Imberhorne this year! Miss Jackson and Miss Harris have organised a range of different events. Staff across the school will be dressing up, students will be able to get involved with competitions, there will be prizes, and a visit from a fantastic author!

We very much value your support with reading at home. Listening to your child read aloud or enjoying a book together is a great place to start, even in Year 11. Please don't forget you can follow us on Instagram @dear_imberhorne for reading recommendations.

