

Strategies to Support Reading at The Hart School

The Importance of Reading

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children’s educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don’t, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

All key stage 3 students will access a variety of reading programmes that include, Thinking Reading, Reading Wise and Sprax Reader programme. These are tried and tested methods to improve reading comprehension and foster a love of reading.

We have a huge variety of books in the Library which cover a host of different interests and topics. Students are supported to develop their reading habits in weekly in Reading Wise lessons.

Staff Professional Development	The Academic Reading Curriculum	Register and Read
We provide ongoing professional development for teaching and support staff to provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to support students in becoming accomplished readers.	Across the curriculum, we ensure that students are exposed to a wide range of academic literature and support students in their understanding of these complex academic texts.	We are very proud of our Register and Read programme in the school, in which tutors read with their students during tutor time for a minimum of 60 minutes per week. Students and tutors read the same book, with tutors modelling pronunciation, fluency and prosodic features.

Targeted Intervention	The Library
Using reading age assessment data, we provide targeted intervention for students who require additional support to enable them to access the full curriculum.	Our library provides a wealth of reading resources within the heart of the school. Through the library, we develop students’ love of reading through providing a wide range of diverse literature and book clubs.

Deliver targeted interventions to support struggling students

It is our mission to ensure that every child in our care can read at their chronological age or above as rapidly as possible. We have a thorough intervention procedure in place to deliver targeted support to close reading gaps and build students' skill and confidence in reading.

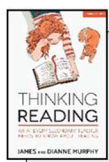
Assessing

GL NGRT Assessments are used on entry to Year 7 to assess students' reading fluency. Students who have not yet developed age appropriate reading skills will be supported to improve their reading fluency, ensuring they can access all of our ambitious curriculum.

Students' reading fluency will be re-assessed at least annually in KS3 to continually track the impact of our literacy provision and to ensure no child falls behind.

Intervention strategies

We use a variety of intervention schemes and strategies to intervene with students including:



Thinking reading

- 1-1 interventions
- Intensive support
- Regular short burst 1-1 sessions



ReadingWise

- Group sessions 4x fortnight
- Computer based
- Targeted intervention



Precision Teaching

- 1-1 SEND support
- EHCP plans



Sparx Reader

- Reading for pleasure and accuracy
- Home learning
- Library lessons



Reading Buddies

- Sixth form or community volunteers



Reading circles

- Read & Eat Lunch Club
- Barrington Stoke booksReading lessons

Students who struggle to read proficiently are assessed and placed onto one of the following intervention pathways, where they are taught by specially trained staff members.

We have seen great successes already in terms of student progress and are looking forward to working with more students to develop their reading in the coming months.

Heron

Intensive 1-1 support

- Students on our **Heron** pathway are the students that require the most **intensive and urgent support** in terms of their phonic knowledge. These are students that are not fully able to decode and have been identified as requiring intensive and urgent support.
- Students who have been identified for this pathway are targeted using the following interventions:
 - Thinking Reading / Precision Teaching
 - Reading Buddies
 - Sparx reader



Kestrel

Decoding

- Students on our **Kestrel** pathway are students who may still require some intervention in terms of decoding, but who require less intensive 1-1 support. Students who have been identified for this pathway are targeted using the following interventions:
- ReadingWise Decoding
- Reading Buddies/Reading Circle - Barrington Stoke Books
- Sparx reader



Skylark

Fluency + Comprehension

- Students on our **Skylark** pathway are secure in their phonic knowledge, but are not secure in fluency and comprehension. Students who have been identified for this pathway are targeted using the following interventions:
- ReadingWise Vocabulary
- ReadingWise Comprehension
- Reading Buddies/Reading Circle - RA 11 books
- Sparx reader



Register and Read

As part of our literacy programme at The Hart School, we read from a selection of books in our tutor time. The books we have selected are books which we feel with challenge, inspire and motivate students to pick up a book and read regularly. We are passionate about ensuring students are exposed to a variety of genre, theme and characters and so we have selected a broad range of texts. We read books as a tutor group so we can develop a love and passion for reading and share stories with our fellow students.


During tutor time

Reading is a vital part of our form tutor programme. Form tutors read with their forms three times a week. There are clear expectations for tutor reading that all staff have been trained on as part of whole-school training

During sessions, tutors read aloud to students to model fluent reading and to allow all students to engage with the text. Books have been specially chosen for each year group, with a range of themes covered and explored to help develop cultural capital and broaden horizons.

Student Expectations

- ✓ **Lay the book flat** on the desk
- ✓ Hold the book with **two hands**
- ✓ **Follow along** with the bookmark
- ✓ **Listen carefully** and **focus**
- ✓ Speak **confidently** to your partner, taking equal turns
- ✓ Use **3, 2, 1, show me** when using your MWB
- ✓ **Look after** the books, keeping pens away from them
- ✓ **Follow instructions** first time, every time
- ✓ Have **fun!**



Reading Wise

Reading Wise is an online literacy programme, supporting the development of reading. Pupils spend 20 minutes per session with supervision and work on different interactive modules to support their learning. Each lesson plan is based on the child's reading age and is tailored to challenge their learning through three different programmes.

For more information on Reading Wise

Thinking Reading Programme

Thinking Reading is a literacy decoding intervention working with those students who have the most significant gaps (more than 2 years) between their reading age and chronological age. The intervention is there as temporary support, prioritising Y7 and Y10 students until their reading ages match their actual ages. Students are chosen based on diagnostic tests and work with a mentor 1:1 three times each week.

The Thinking Reading programme aims to catch up students with their reading gaps. It compensates for areas of deprivation and simply aims to demonstrate the enjoyment of reading.

The most important thing about the program is the effect it can have on the students enrolled in such a short space of time. In just six lessons (approximately two weeks) a student with a reading age of below 11 years can make six months of progress. Confidence in the students is also massively improved, as the sessions break down barriers to speaking aloud and this can then be built upon further in their normal timetabled lessons.

For more information on Thinking Reading

Sparx Reader

Sparx Reader is reading, comprehension and vocabulary programme that gets all young people reading regularly to help improve their Literacy.

Key Stage 3 Students are set homework each week on Sparx Reader. Students are set the task of reading a book of their choice on the platform each week. Students need to collect 300 SRP per week to complete their homework. This equates to around 30 minutes of slow, concise and accurate reading per week.

SRP points (Sparx Reader Points) are awarded to students for completing their homework. This is how we track their student's progress and engagement. Once students have completed a placement test, the 'library' on Sparx Reader will open and students can select a book to read for homework.

As students read, they will be asked some comprehension questions to check their understanding and to ensure they are completing their homework weekly. Tasks are personalised based on each student's reading ability so that every student can be successful with their reading. The books that a student can choose from are carefully chosen so that the text is accessible yet suitably challenging.

Do students read whole e-books?

Yes, students read whole e-books on the platform, not just short excerpts. Each story has been carefully broken up into passages, and at the end of a passage, a student will be asked a few questions about that part of the story. When they complete the questions, they will move onto the next part of the book.

Does it have a range of books suitable for all reading ages?

We have e-books from a Sparx Level 1, which is roughly equivalent to a reading age of just over 6 up to 16+ which includes classic literature such as Wuthering Heights. Gold readers can read any paperback book from their school library - some books require teacher validation before they can be read. There are enough books so that students at every level always have a choice of books to read. Students identified as Gold Readers will record their reading onto the platform themselves as a record of their personal reading.

At what level are students allowed to read books of their own choice?

Students who are new to Sparx Reader will be given a selection of carefully selected e-books which they can work through over several weeks. This allows us to understand whether they are able to read carefully and are motivated to independently finish a book. Those that demonstrate they can do this will then be able to add their own books to the system.

We do not use students' level or reading age to decide when to unlock this feature, meaning weaker readers will be able to add their own books if they are reading carefully and are motivated to complete books independently. Similarly, if stronger readers cannot demonstrate that they can read the e-books carefully and remain motivated to complete books, they will continue to only have access to the Sparx Reader e-books.

How do I log in?

Students should first select their school in the drop down menu and then enter their login details. These are the same login details they use for Sparx Maths. If a student forgets their password, they can request a password change from their teacher directly.

For more information on Sparx Reader

Reading Homework

Alongside their curriculum-based home learning, students are set 20 minutes of home reading per week via Sparx Reader. This is a fantastic platform that provides students with books that match their reading level and checks student comprehension. Rewards are built into the platform and are used by teachers to inform praise phone calls and praise postcards. At the end of each term, rewards are given for Sparx reader as part of school rewards assemblies.

For more information, please visit <https://sparxreader.com/>

