

Atherton High School

SPRING TERM

Literacy Newsletter 2025

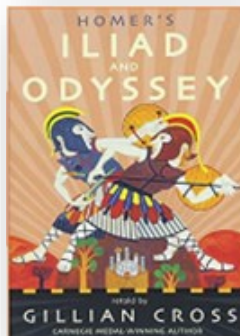
We are a reading school and proud to be so!

We know that reading is a crucial life skill, one that supports our daily activities, our mental health and the skills that get us through exams and into the world of work.

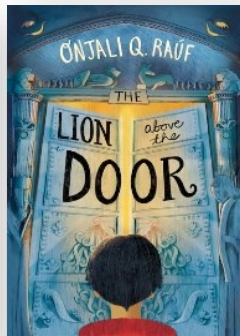
“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one.” - **George R.R. Martin**

Our pupils are currently reading:

“I really enjoy reading during form, it is a nice and calm start to the day and I am really enjoying the books we read!”



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds.

Participating schools give their students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



It was a very exciting morning and students could not wait to discuss their books with each other!

Closing the Reading Gap

Why is it important to regularly test the Reading Ages of our students?

Tracks Reading Progress Over Time

- Regular assessments help monitor how a student's reading ability develops, identifying whether they are improving, staying the same, or are in need of extra support.

Identifies Strengths and Weaknesses

- Tests can highlight specific areas where a student excels (like comprehension or vocabulary) and areas that need support (such as decoding or paragraph recognition).

Informs Targeted Support

- Knowing a student's reading level allows teachers to provide tailored interventions, resources, and reading materials suited to their needs.

Boosts Confidence and Motivation

- When students see measurable progress, it can **increase their confidence** and **motivate** them to engage more with reading.

Reading Awards!

This term we have seen massive improvements across the board in regards to the NGRT Reading Age tests! We are so, so proud of all of our pupils who read everyday with their form tutors during form time or as part of a smaller intervention group.

In particular a very special well done to these pupils:

- * Leila O y10
- * Darin E y9
- * Amaiya M y8
- * Celsie H y7

All of the students above have made enormous gains towards their reading targets, well done!



Register Read Respond

Every Friday during form time every form takes part in RRR. Each week a different department contributes a different article or fiction extract that explores an important event from that week in history or other very important days in the calendar. Over the last half term we have found out about the roles of service animals, the life and achievements of local poet Lemn Sissay, how to prepare for an interview and many, many more topics besides!

Alex Quigley's

6 STEPS to
CLOSING THE READING GAP

[STEP 1] Train teachers to be expert in how pupils 'learn to read' and go on to 'read to learn'.



[STEP 2] Develop and teach a coherent and cumulative 'reading rich' curriculum.



[STEP 3] Teach with a focus on reading access, practice, and enhancing reading ability.



[STEP 4] Teach, model and scaffold pupils' reading so that they become strategic and knowledgeable readers.



[STEP 5] Nurture pupils' motivation to read with purpose and for pleasure.



[STEP 6] Foster a reading culture within, and beyond, the school gates.



Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

These steps are taken from Closing the Reading Gap.
Available at www.routledge.com/9780367276881

