



THE FULHAM BOYS SCHOOL

A Church of England School

The Fulham Boys School
Mund Street
Gibbs Green
London
W14 9LY

Tel: 020 7381 7100
www.fulhamboysschool.org

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Dear Parents/Guardians

ALN Update

At FBS we do lots of things that make us special and unique from other schools. One of these things is the co-curricular time, which offers the students a phenomenal range of clubs to try. However co-curricular time isn't just for activities like judo and fencing. We recognise that all boys will probably need help with some aspect of school life at some point during their time with us, and we firmly believe the co-curricular time is the perfect opportunity to help our students in any areas of need.

For the last ten weeks, roughly 70 boys have taken part in an 'Accelerated Reader' (AR) intervention (INT to the boys) delivered by the Additional Learning Needs department. Good literacy and reading skills are vital for academic success across the board, so the ALN department set about trying to improve boys' reading ages in order for them to be able to access the curriculum better. The sessions involved reading books which were appropriately selected for the individual boy's reading ability. It is a shame that when children get to secondary school, there becomes a stigma about reading aloud to parents and to teachers, so we encouraged our boys to read to a member of ALN staff. After the boys had finished the book, they had to complete an online quiz which showed whether they had understood the book.

For many boys AR became a welcome hour of calm during our busy school day; for some boys they realised there were actually books that they could understand and enjoy. Both of these were pleasing to see. However, when we tested the boys' reading ages again, the results were really quite astonishing. In just 3 months, we saw the reading ages of the boys increase by an average of 10 months. We saw a direct link between boys who were reading shorter books which were appropriate for their ability and an increase in reading age. The boys who read the same tome of a book for six weeks made far less gains.

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Life at FBS is a journey and there will be successes and struggles for all boys along the way. What this intervention has shown is that with the right nurture, encouragement and direction, all of our boys can become proficient readers and therefore effective learners capable of achieving their potential.

If you would like to join our dedicated ALN team, please visit

www.fulhamboyschool.org/school/vacancies/ to see our Learning Support Assistant advert.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Adams
SENCO

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