



THE MITCH JOHNSON LIBRARY AND ACCELERATED READER A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS





WELCOME TO THE MITCH JOHNSON LIBRARY AT NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR BOYS



About the library

The library at NSB is named after NSB alumnus and writer of 'Kick', 'Pop!' and 'Toxic', Mitch Johnson.

When visiting the library, students are welcome to read, borrow and return books, and complete Accelerated Reader quizzes. Electronic books and audiobooks can also be accessed in the library through MyOn.

Our library staff

- Mrs Rutherford: Accelerated Reader Lead
- Mrs Thomson: Librarian
- Ms Child: Learning Leader KS3 English
- Mrs Morrell: Curriculum Team Leader English
- Mrs Barlow: Trust Director of Literacy
- Mrs Topping Shaw: Senior Staff
- Mrs Bradley Brophy: Senior Staff
- Mr Rodger: Senior Staff

Should you have any queries about your child's library lessons or reading progress, please email us at: jrutherford@nsbtrust.school.

Our opening times



Students from Years 7-13 are welcome to visit the library during the following times:

- Before school (8am - 8.30am)
- Break (10.30 - 10.50am/ 11.15 - 11.35am, lesson permitting)
- Lunch (1.05pm - 2pm)
- After school Monday- Thursday (3.35pm - 4pm)

Our vision for KS3 library lessons

All Year 7 and Year 8 students have one library lesson per week. Timetabled as part of the English Curriculum, we aim to provide students with the opportunity to:

- Read for pleasure and develop a love of literature
- Read from a diverse range of genres and themes
- Gain confidence in reading independently
- Explore the world around them through literature
- Gain cultural awareness of the world outside of their local community
- Develop their vocabulary
- Develop their creativity and imagination
- Develop their focus and concentration
- Develop their emotional literacy
- Develop their sense of wellbeing through reading
- Improve their academic ability



Visiting authors

As a school, we are proud to offer our students the opportunity to meet and work with authors. In 2023, we welcomed Tom Palmer who delighted students with a creative writing workshop, assembly and book signing. In 2024 we welcomed Mitch Johnson (pictured left) as part of his book launch for 'Toxic'. We look forward to announcing our next visiting author soon.



Library books and reading lists

Students are able to select from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. All books in the Mitch Johnson library have a quiz on Accelerated Reader. These quizzes form part of the feedback offered to students in their library lessons.

Reading lists for all KS3 English schemes of learning are available on the English Curriculum page of the school's website. We encourage students to read widely around the core concepts of our English curriculum (see image to left).



Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader forms the foundation of our library lessons. Accelerated Reader is an online programme designed to monitor and manage students' independent reading practice and comprehension. It assesses students' performance through quizzes and tests based on the books they have read.

Through Accelerated Reader, students are baseline-tested at the start of each academic year. This "STAR" reading assessment provides library staff with a range of data and sets each student's bespoke reading range (known as their ZPD). In the Mitch Johnson Library, books are colour-coded to help students select books within their reading range. Students are asked to choose books from their ZPD to ensure the book strikes a balance of accessibility and challenge for their personal reading ability; this ensures they make good progress.

When a student finishes a book, they should complete the associated quiz on Accelerated Reader to check their understanding of what they have read. They can also take the associated vocabulary quiz. When students pass a quiz, the total number of words from their book is added to their running total. Students are awarded a commendation for every 5th quiz passed with a score of 100%. Students who read one million words in an academic year become part of our Millionaire's Club; they are presented with a Millionaire's badge to wear as part of their school uniform.

MyOn and MyOn News

Alongside Accelerated Reader, all Year 7 and Year 8 students are provided with a MyOn account.

MyOn is a digital reading platform that allows students to access thousands of electronic books (including fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels and more) and audiobooks. It is a digital library that students can access both at school and at home. Books read on this platform can be quizzed on as part of Accelerated Reader.

MyON News delivers age-appropriate digital news articles for students, reporting on timely topics and current events.



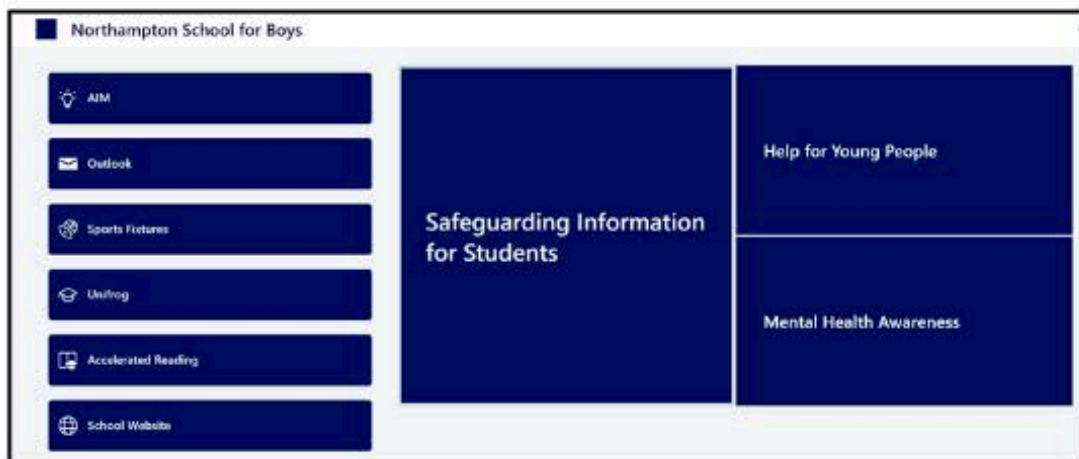
How can my child log into Renaissance from home?



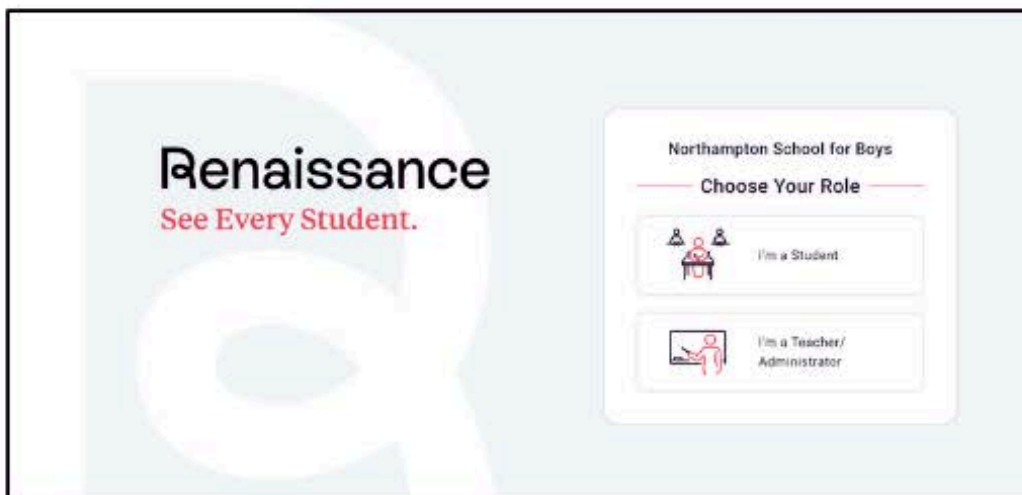
The Renaissance platform allows students to access both Accelerated Reader and MyOn.

Step one: students should go to the homepage of the school's website.

Step two: students should then click on the link to the VLE. This can be found on the right hand side of the page (as above).



Step three: next, students should click on the 'Accelerated Reader' button. This can be found on the left hand side of the screen (as above).



Step four: students should then click "I am a student" and use their login details to access both Accelerated Reader and MyOn from home.

How can I track my child's progress?

Step one: have your child log into Renaissance using their account details.

The screenshot shows the Renaissance Learning dashboard. At the top is a 'Home' header. Below it are two main sections: 'Practice' and 'Assignments'. The 'Practice' section includes buttons for 'AR Accelerated Reader' and 'myON'. Below that are 'Star Assessments' for 'English', with buttons for 'Star Early Literacy', 'Star Reading', and 'Star Maths'. The 'Assignments' section has a filter for 'Showing All Assignments' and 'From Everyone'. It lists five completed assignments: 'Reading Practice Quiz: I Wonder Why Trees Have Leaves and Other Questions About Plants', 'Reading Practice Quiz: Queen Elizabeth II', 'Reading Practice Quiz: Prince Caspian', 'Reading Practice Quiz: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)', and 'Messaged by Balloon - Read and Take Quiz'. At the bottom right of the assignments list, it says 'Page 1 of 1' with navigation arrows.

This is a close-up of the 'For Parents and Guardians' section. It features a button labeled 'Get Email Updates' with the subtext 'Track your child's work'. A red dashed arrow points from the right side of the button towards the text in the step below.

Step two: click the “Get Email Updates” button in the “For Parents and Guardians” section.

New Email Details

Name
Sarah Bailey

Email Address to Receive Updates
sarahb@noemail.com

Confirm Email Address
sarahb@noemail.com

Step three: enter your email address to receive updates on your child's progress.

Step four: if you have more than one child using Accelerated Reader, you must log in separately with each child's username and password and set up your email preferences for that child.

Literacy intervention

All literacy intervention is overseen by Mrs Barlow, our Trust Director of Literacy. STAR reading data is used to target specific support to ensure all students have the reading skills necessary to access the broad, knowledge-rich curriculum at every Key Stage. Literacy interventions can include one-to-one reading, reciprocal reading or the Sixth Form reading mentoring programme. All are carefully monitored to ensure the correct support and intervention for students, as required. Information about this is communicated separately with parents and carers.

Reading at home

Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that reading every day has the most profound impact on progress. Children who read for just **20 minutes a day** can be exposed to nearly 2 million words per year, which translates into increased academic success. We do appreciate that some students will have other commitments, including extracurricular sport and performing arts. For those unable to read for 20 minutes every day, studies have shown that 20 minutes, 4 times a week still has a positive impact.



Student Voice: October 2024

In October, we invited Years 7-9 to provide feedback on our current library provision. 610 students replied. They praised:

- The variety of books available in the library
- The opportunity to learn about other cultures and experiences through literature
- Being able to use Accelerated Reader quizzes to check their knowledge and understanding
- How library lessons and Accelerated Progress allows them to make progress and become more independent readers
- The impact reading has had on their progress in all subjects
- The calm, quiet atmosphere in lessons, and the positive impact this had on their mental health and wellbeing
- The praise and rewards system used in library lessons
- The library space, including the comfy chairs

Here are some examples of comments from our students:

Next steps:

Students requested a number of new books as part of the survey. A suggestion box has now been introduced in the library so students can make book requests.

Students also asked for more rewards. In line with the school's behaviour policy, house competitions and commendations have now been added to library lessons. There will also be a randomised seating chart to ensure all students get a chance to use the comfy chairs.



"I like that when I read a book I get to go on a journey. It's a new adventure every time."
Harry, Year 7

"I enjoyed the library lessons as it provided a calm and relaxing 45 minutes. During my time using the library lessons I discovered my 3 favourite book series of all time."
Daniel, Year 9

"We get to read books which helps me relax and it also increases my creative writing skills."
Cezar, Year 9

"My library lessons are fun. It's good to have a calming space to concentrate and focus on reading."
Cohen, Year 8

"Reading in the library makes my mind feel bright and positive."
Patryk, Year 7



