

Atherton High School



Literacy Newsletter 2025

TERM

We are a reading school and proud to be so!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." **Dr. Seuss**

What our
pupils have
been reading
this year:



Author Visit!

Tom Palmer, author of D-Day Dog plus many, many more titles, is joined Atherton High School for a virtual visit on Wednesday 16th July. Tom spoke to our Year 7 students about what inspires him to read and write, where he gets his ideas and inspiration and encouraged our students to write their own stories too!



As the recipient of the 2025 York Book Award and 2025 Windsor Academy Trust Book Award, as well as being nominated for the 2025 Carnegie Medal for Writing, Tom's time spent sharing his expertise in writing with our Year 7 students will be invaluable.

"Tom Palmer is definitely in the premier league of children's authors with an impressive back catalogue of soccer stories." **Mumsnet**

What students said:

"It was really interesting!"

"I want to read more of the books he talked about."

"It was great speaking to a real author!"



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:

- **Bella W y10**
- **Kaleb R y9**
- **Lily-Grace H y8**
- **Mia R 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 explored the value of money and what are the different options to save money and through the Grow a Pound initiative we have also started to understand how to earn money! We have also put our creative writing skills to the test on National Writing Day, learned about what makes Wimbledon such a special event and plus much, much more!

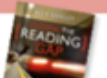
Alex Quigley's

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.	

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These steps are taken from Closing the Reading Gap
Available at www.routledge.com/9780367274881



READING JOURNAL

