



1 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

ACES

I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some work that staff at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading have been doing to help students to decipher and access more challenging texts that they see inside the classroom. The strategy being used by teachers across all subjects is known as ACES which stands for the following:

Anticipate what is going to happen

Clarify/clear up with your partner/teacher anything that you don't know

Examine what, who, why, where and how

Sum up/summarise what happened

You can also use these strategies to help your child at home whilst doing homework or reading for pleasure. The idea is that by using some of these strategies, students feel more confident with what may otherwise be an overly complex text. The strategies can also be used to dig deeper and find information that may otherwise be overlooked. Some useful example questions that you could consider to help your child are as follows:

Anticipate – What do you think the text is going to be about based on the title/headline/picture? Which key words do you think are important in anticipating what the text is going to be about?

Clarify/clear up – Can you check something you are not sure about in your book/on the internet/with me? Can you tell me what this particular sentence means to prove to yourself that you know it?

Examine – What is the text about? Who are the key characters/people in the text? Why do you think the author has written this? Where has the action taken place? How does the text make you feel?

Sum up – Can you tell me what the text is about in one sentence? Can you summarise the text using only five words?

If you would like any more advice on how you could best use these strategies at home, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

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