

Garstang Community Academy

Reading Newsletter, Spring 2022

“Read to succeed”



Welcome to the second GCA Reading Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you abreast of the activities used to support reading across the school, as well as handy hints and tips to use at home.

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www.garstangcommunityacademy.com/learning/study-centre/reading-at-gca

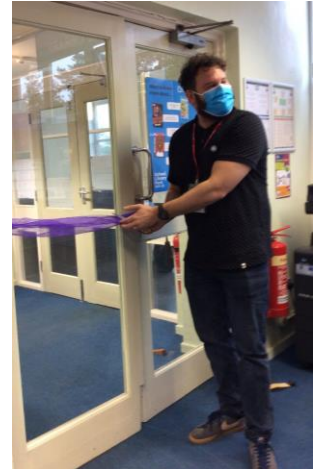


Library Relaunch

On 14th January, we proudly relaunched our Library after several months of closure and refurbishment. We invited local author Nathan Parker, whose book *The Disappearance of Timothy Dawson* was nominated for the Lancashire Book of the Year Award in 2019, to oversee proceedings and officially reopen the Library for our students.

The morning included a number of events, and Nathan was kind enough to conduct Writing Workshops for students in Ys 9 and 10, talking about the writing process and how to create successful narrative pieces. He also visited classrooms to answer student questions before the official reopening ceremony where Nathan cut the ribbon to proclaim the Library reopen.

The Library has undergone some significant changes; there is more light and space for students to sit and read, as well as Fiction being expanded and added to. Our new librarian, Mrs Ormerod, has worked incredibly hard to make our Library the wonderful space it has become. It is wonderful to see this space being used by so many students for both pleasure and study. Nathan Parker was incredibly complimentary and spoke of how this is an invaluable resource, really putting reading at the heart of GCA.



The Library is open at both breaks and lunches for all year groups. In addition to this, each KS3 English class has a timetabled lesson in this space every fortnight. Mrs Ormerod, regularly updates stock, holds competitions and has a wealth of book related knowledge. We hope that your child enjoys this fantastic resource and will find the perfect book.

Five minutes with... Mrs Ormerod

With the reopening of the library, we have a new librarian. We spoke to her about her role.

What drew you to the role of librarian?

Simple answer – I love books. This has always been my dream job, so it was a no-brainer in applying. There's been a librarian hidden inside me for a long time!

What do you hope to bring to the role?

I want to encourage students to read for pleasure, not just because it's part of the curriculum. There's a whole world of books out there waiting to be enjoyed!

What is your favourite genre of book to read?

I will read anything and everything, but I love historical fiction.

What skills do you need to be a librarian?

Librarians require many skills. A librarian must deal with information in physical and digital formats. You need to be organised and passionate about reading!

GCA Literary Canon

The GCA Literary Canon has continued into the Spring Term with a new range of titles. Please ask your child about what they have been reading! Our students have been reading the following in form time:

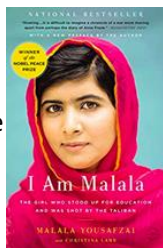
Y7 – *You Are Awesome* by Matthew Syed

The first children's book from Times journalist, two-time Olympian and best-selling mindset author Matthew Syed, it uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired. With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, and, most importantly, a growth mindset, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.



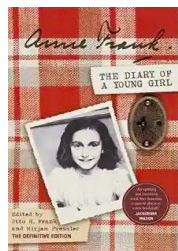
Y9 – *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

The best selling memoir of youngest ever Nobel Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai, the girl who was shot by the Taliban on the way to school. This autobiography will inspire and inform in equal measure, as students learn about life in a very different world.



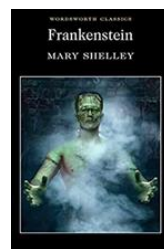
Y8 – *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

Anne Frank wrote her diary until her family were betrayed and caught by the Nazis in occupied Holland in 1942. Just 13 years old at the time, Anne invites us to share her lengthy isolation and gives us an insight into her personality and spirited view of life!



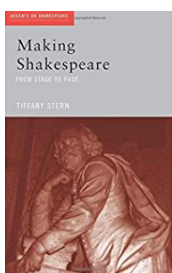
Y10 – *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

This classic novel, written in 1819, has moved beyond the text to become part of popular culture. Weaving together the scientific developments of her time into her own personal experiences of love, life and travel, she has created one of the most enduring stories of our time. This book will give students the opportunity to enjoy one of the earliest examples of science fiction while learning more about a range of issues.



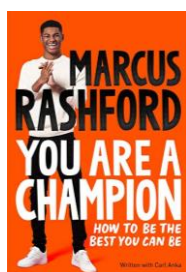
Recommended Reads

We have asked staff across the school to suggest their recommended reads for students. This is what they suggest:



Mrs Illman recommends *Making Shakespeare* by Tiffany Stern

“A real game-changer in terms of the historical context of the Bard. Stern takes a fascinating and accessible look at life in London as well as Elizabethan attitudes and beliefs. Well worth a read for Year 10 and particularly Year 11 students.”



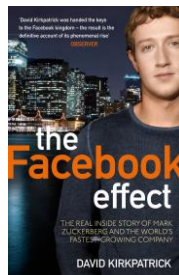
Mr Thistlethwaite recommends *You Are a Champion* by Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka

“A good one for anyone who enjoyed *You Are Awesome*, it tells you how to:

- Be comfortable with who you are – you can't be a champion until you're happy being you!
- Dream big;
- Practise like a champion;
- Get out of your comfort zone and learn from your mistakes;
- Navigate adversity in a positive way;
- Find your team;
- Use your voice and stand up for others;
- Never stop learning.”

Mrs Ashworth recommends *The Facebook Effect* by David Kirkpatrick

“But how did a nineteen-year-old Harvard student develop a company that has not only transformed the internet but changed the nature of how we communicate? David Kirkpatrick tells us how Facebook was created, why it has flourished and where it is going next. He chronicles its successes and missteps and gives readers the most complete assessment so far of founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, the central figure in the company's remarkable ascent. Great for Business Studies!”



For further recommendations, follow these links below:

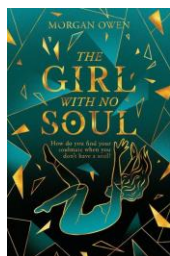
[Log in or join Lancashire County Libraries](#)

[Love Reading 4 Kids](#) - for book lists by age group and interests
[Fantastic Fiction](#) – for the latest news on fiction books for all ages - 30,000 authors and 350,000 books

[Book Trust](#)—transforms lives by getting children and families reading
[Who Else Writes Like...?](#) - A guide to children's authors

Library – New Stock

Grab them while you can!



The Girl with no Soul by Morgan Owen

How do you find your soul mate when you don't have a soul? Iris has a secret ... she is a soulless hollow. But when she steals a ring from a lady of nobility, she is reunited with her Spark, the first part of her soul. Iris must enlist the help of Evander, a young scholar, to find out what happened to her

The Wild Before by Piers Torday

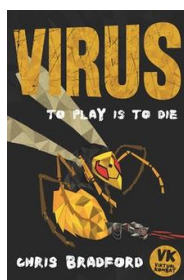
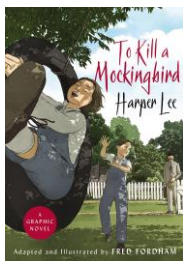
Can one hare alone change the world? The captivating animal adventure destined to be loved by readers of all ages. One stormy, snowy night, a pure silver calf is born on an ordinary muddy farm by the light of the moon. This is the legendary Mooncalf, whose arrival has been foretold since the dawn of time. Little Hare vows to persuade all the animals to protect Mooncalf, whatever the cost. But it's easier said than done, and soon Little Hare realises that he is the only one who can save the world...



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (Graphic Novel)

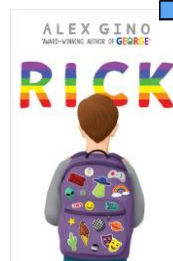
A haunting portrait of race and class, innocence and injustice, hypocrisy and heroism, tradition and transformation in the Deep South of the 1930s, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* remains as important today as it was upon its initial publication in 1960, during the turbulent years of the Civil Rights movement.

Now, this most beloved and acclaimed novel is reborn for a new age as a gorgeous graphic novel. Scout, Jem, Boo Radley, Atticus Finch and the small town of Maycomb, Alabama, are all captured in vivid and moving illustrations by artist Fred Fordham. Lifetime admirers and new readers alike will be touched by this special visual edition.



Rick by Alex Gino

Rick's best friend Jeff is someone that makes rude comments, makes others the butt of his jokes, but is still pretty nice to Rick most of the time. Now that they are in middle school, Rick is noticing new opportunities. He is drawn to the school's Rainbow Spectrum club and lies to Jeff about where he is going once a week. In the club, Rick discovers a space where everyone is welcome and accepted. He also learns a name for his own identity which lets him realize that there is nothing wrong with him. As he makes new friends in the club, Jeff starts to target their posters for his bullying and hate. It's up to Rick to decide if he can stand up to Jeff, his best friend, or if he will continue to stand by and stay silent.



The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe

A slick, twisty YA page-turner about the daughter of a con artist who is taken hostage in a bank heist. Nora O'Malley's been a lot of girls. As the daughter of a con-artist who targets criminal men, she grew up as her mother's protégé. But when mom fell for the mark instead of conning him, Nora pulled the ultimate con: escape.

For five years Nora's been playing at normal. But she needs to dust off the skills she ditched because she has a couple of problems: The bank robbers may be trouble, but Nora's something else entirely. They have no idea who they're really holding hostage...

Virus: To Play is to Die by Chris Bradford (Dyslexia Friendly)

Scott has escaped but the game plays on. No one believes him that Vince Power is evil. Hunted by the Analysts, Scott has to go underground where he encounters a gang of techno-hackers. Remotely hacking into the VK game, Connor must re-boot inside the virtual arena and implant a computer virus to destroy VK. But it's a wireless connection. If it breaks, he'll be trapped inside the game forever... An exciting and nerve-wracking sci-fi tale. Perfect for fans of Chris and gaming.