

LHS

Reading Newsletter

Winter 1



COMIC BOOK CLUB!

**National
poetry day**

**VISITS TO
SCHOOL!**

**Corrie star
interview!**

Reading Newsletter - winter 1

Welcome to our Autumn 2 reading newsletter. We hope your children have had an enjoyable term, and have been involved in lots of our new reading opportunities. We've continued to have lots going on this term, and had a great turn-out for the National Teen Book Club. Students from Years 7-10 were able to speak to a variety of authors and illustrators, and gain tips and inspiration for their own creative writing, as well as the enjoyment of sharing their thoughts on Sue Cheung's book Chinglish. We have lots more opportunities available in the new year, and are looking forward to welcoming Tom Palmer to school. More information about his visit can be found inside.

Lots of students continue to be awarded reading badges. Do encourage your child to come and see me if they have met any of the criteria for the awards. They will also receive achievement points for their efforts.

Thank you again to all of our parents/carers, for taking the time to complete our recent questionnaire. As I always say, your input is invaluable, and we really do listen to your feedback.

Inside you will find some more book reviews and recommendations, as we know parents often like to buy books as stocking fillers at Christmas. We hope you find something suitable for your child.

Have a wonderful, restful Christmas!
Mrs Emery



Scan this QR code or click [here](#) to go straight to the website for our wishlist with a new chapter books.



Sora The Digital Library



Below is the data for Sora access in Winter 1.

November:

Books Accessed - **421**

Checkouts - **327**

Average time on Sora - **25:37 minutes**

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF
READING 20
MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

A student who reads

1:00

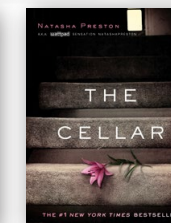
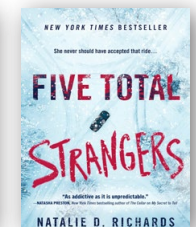
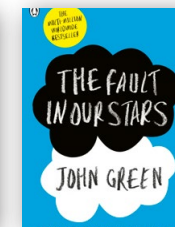
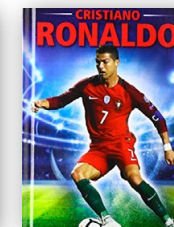
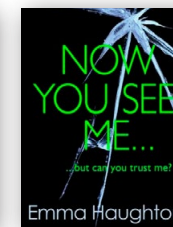
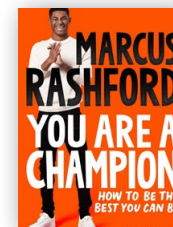
minute per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Top books on Sora November-December





• CORONATION ST. •

star Melissa Johns talks books!

1. What is your favourite book of all time?

The Gift by Cecelia Ahern

2. What was your favourite book when you were a child/teenager?

Anything by Jacqueline Wilson!
Suitcase kid, Tracey beaker, Illustrated mum! I loved them all!

3. If you could play the part of a character from a book, who would it be, and from what book?

I'd love to play a detective from a thriller/detective book. I'm not sure which one as there's so many! But most detectives are pretty cool so I'd enjoy that.

4. Are you currently reading anything (if so, what?) and did you read more during lockdown?

I haven't been reading anything for a while but I need to start dedicating more time to it. We are all so busy and rushing from here to there. I think a book is one of the few things in life that force us to sit down and escape into another world.

5. Do you think you are anything like any of the characters you have played?

I think that as an actor, you bring your life experiences into each character you play. And that's how you find the truth in each character. You may not be exactly the same, but you can draw on certain life events or experiences and integrate that into your character's journey.

6. Who/what inspired you to go into acting?

A lady back in my home town called Barbara Jones. Barbara wrote and directed a play back in 2000 when I was 10. It was about WW1 & 2 - called 'Through the dark clouds shining'.

She cast me in the only child part and our relationship grew. My family weren't theatre goers and so Barbara would take me to the theatre each month so watch a range of shows!

7. Who is/was your idol growing up?

Kate Winslet, Olivia Colman

8. If you could meet three fictional characters from books, who would they be?

Hermione Granger, Little Pea and Lou Suffern (from The Gift).

9. Do you fold the corner or use a bookmark to keep your page?

Fold the corner... which is naughty!

10. Do you prefer a physical book or an eBook?

Physical book

11. Finally, is there any advice you would give to your 14-year-old self?

Celebrate what makes you different. Never hide it away. Magnify it, glorify it, make it the best thing you own.

*And be a kind soul.
Good luck with it!!*

MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE

I had to review this book, for I think *everybody would enjoy it*. This is one of my favourite books which I have read multiple times, simply because it is so good. The plot, genre, themes and style were all *unbelievably gripping*, and I couldn't put it down. It is like no book I have ever read before. Murder Most Unladylike gave me shivers of *thrill and fear* all at the same time. Although the book told the tale of something that most likely wouldn't happen in real life, it all seemed so true and realistic. As the plot develops, *you grow to love and understand Daisy and Hazel*, the protagonists, and hope that their *heart-warming friendship* survives the test of their mission.

Though this book is based in the 20th century, and so really is a historical novel, it at no point feels dated or old in its plot, which may be either good or bad depending on your preference of time period books are set in.

It is a *murder mystery book*, and is perfect for my age group of young adult. I think the plot and gruesome mentions of murder may be too old of a theme for 8-10 year olds, but *teenagers are sure to adore this* step up from juvenile fiction. This is the first book in a series of 10! I have read book 2 as well, and I can assure you it is just as amazing, and I now look forward to reading the next one on the series! I would recommend that you read book 1 first, Murder Most Unladylike, because you learn things about the main characters that may not be mentioned in you delve right into the middle of the series.

Hazel Wong finds the Science Mistress of boarding school Deepdean School For Girls, Miss Bell, *dead* in the gym. It doesn't take long to work out...*she has been murdered*. But by who? The teachers found near the scene of the crime are suspects, and it is up to Daisy and Hazel to find the clues, identify alibis and break most school rules in order to investigate and solve this murder case before the police...

Review by Lottie Carter



National Poetry Day took place on 8th October, and in lessons our students got the opportunity to create their own poems based around the theme of choice. There were lots of fantastic entries and we were able to award 10 of our learners across school some verse novels and poetry collections for their efforts.

Well done to Grace, Lucy, Kade, Lucca, Beth, Thomas, Harriet, Poppy, Elliot and Daisy.



See some of the amazing poems on the next page!

Emergency room



I swore on an oath
I swore to the law
I swore to the medical board
That I would save you all.
But sometimes things don't go to plan.

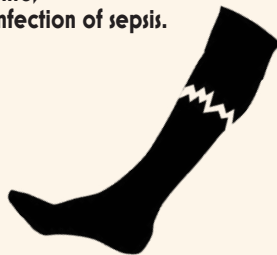
I lift up my scalpel
I lift up my saw
I lift up my scissors
And luckily this time was an easy resort.

My choice to inject.
My choice to withdraw
My choice to fasten you up again
Is what saved you from death's door.

I lift up my scalpel
I lift up my saw
I lift up my scissors
But this time it wasn't as easy as I thought.

This time, the wound was bigger and thicker
This time the wound was gooier and grimmer.
I only had one option left to take
Do I make the choice to amputate?

There was no plan B to fall back on
There was no assistant telling me to carry on
I just had to trust my gut feeling
And trust my choice
To take the leg and have gone,
In order to save a life,
From the deadly infection of sepsis.



Be Brave, Be Bold

Harriet Ratcliffe

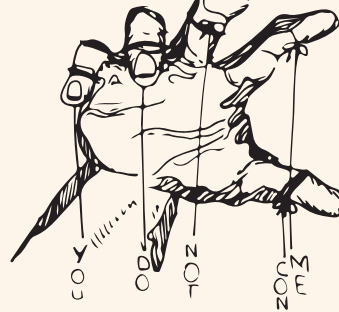
You never know what life will hold,
So be brave, be bold,
Don't let others chose your path,
If people try, show them your wrath,

The future will stay untold,
Life is yours to grasp, take hold,
No magic crystal will give you answers,
Neither will any necromancers.

You choose and pave your way,
So take a leap of faith at the end of the day.

Our actions lead to options
Our battles lead us to quarrels,

You never know what life will hold
So be brave, be bold



Everybody has a choice,
Everybody has a voice,
I know it's rough,
But life is tough,
You either win or lose,
But you can't choose,
So you should just get on,
Before your time passes on.

education

DO YOU EVER THINK,
WHAT TO DO WITH OUR LIFE?
THE THOUGHT PRODUCES STRESS, MAKES STRIFE.
AS SOON AS WE LEAVE,
OUR SCHOOL WE WILL SEE
THE OCEAN WE HAVE TO TRY TO FLOAT IN.
COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIPS, BOTH ARE GOOD WAYS,
TO SPEND YOUR TIME SLOGGING, TO SPREAD OUT YOUR DAYS
BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START?
YOU'RE STUCK IN A PUZZLE THAT CAN'T BE PICKED APART.
THEY SAY, YOU'RE SMART,
KID YOU'LL SOON BE A PART,
OF OUR INDUSTRY,
SOCIETY'S HEART.
VOCATIONAL, T LEVELS, WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
THE AMOUNT OF LEAFLETS YOU'VE RECEIVED IS OBSCENE.
TO GO WITH YOUR GUT, OR TO STICK WITH YOUR GENES,
THE FAMILY BUSINESS OF WHICH THEY ARE KEEN
TO ENTICE YOU,
TO STRESS OUT YOUR MIND,
BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE THE FURTHER EDUCATION SORT OF KIND?
WHAT DO YOU DO THEN?
HOW WILL YOU BREAK IT,
TO THE PEOPLE WHO THINK YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE IT,
THAT YOU WANT TO JOIN THEM
THEIR BUSINESS, BUT THEY'RE BLIND, CAUSE
WHAT IF YOU'RE THE FURTHER EDUCATION SORT OF KIND?

GRACE MACDONALD

Thoughts & decisions

A path you must follow is ahead, the voice that needs to speak up is trapped inside your head. I just want to be me, why won't it let me be? I don't want to listen to opinions but that's all I ever see. I feel strange, I just wish everything would change. Just because you caught something from a stranger doesn't mean you can put a stop to all this danger. Wearing a mask while completing a task is hell, I didn't ask to be in this mess, I must confess.



By Daisy

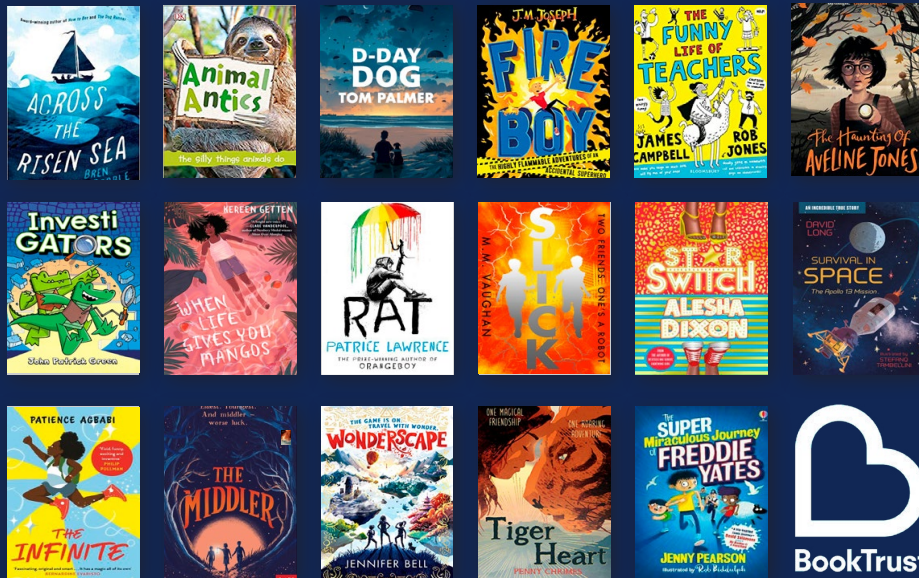
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Bookbuzz

This year we have invested in Book Buzz for all of our Year 7 and 8 students. They all get to choose a free book, from a recommended list of 17, which will be delivered to school for them just in time for Christmas.

Students have had the opportunity to flick through the books in their English lessons, and read the blurbs. We are looking forward to receiving lots of reviews once they're in, and awarding some reading badges.

Please see below for more information from The Book Trust about this initiative:
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/>



The 17 amazing books our students get to pick from!

Book vending machines!



In response to literacy leader feedback, we are excited to announce that we will shortly be in receipt of a brand new book vending machine, which will feature just outside the school library. The machine will be stocked with new books, voted for by our students, and they will be awarded golden tokens so they can pick a book from a wide selection. More details will come of what students need to do to receive these tokens, but we wanted to let you know about this exciting new development!

National Teen Book Club



We've launched the National Teen Book Club. The first week saw them meet Tom Palmer on the virtual event! They heard all about his work, how he comes up with ideas for stories and how his dog influenced his novel D-Day Dog.



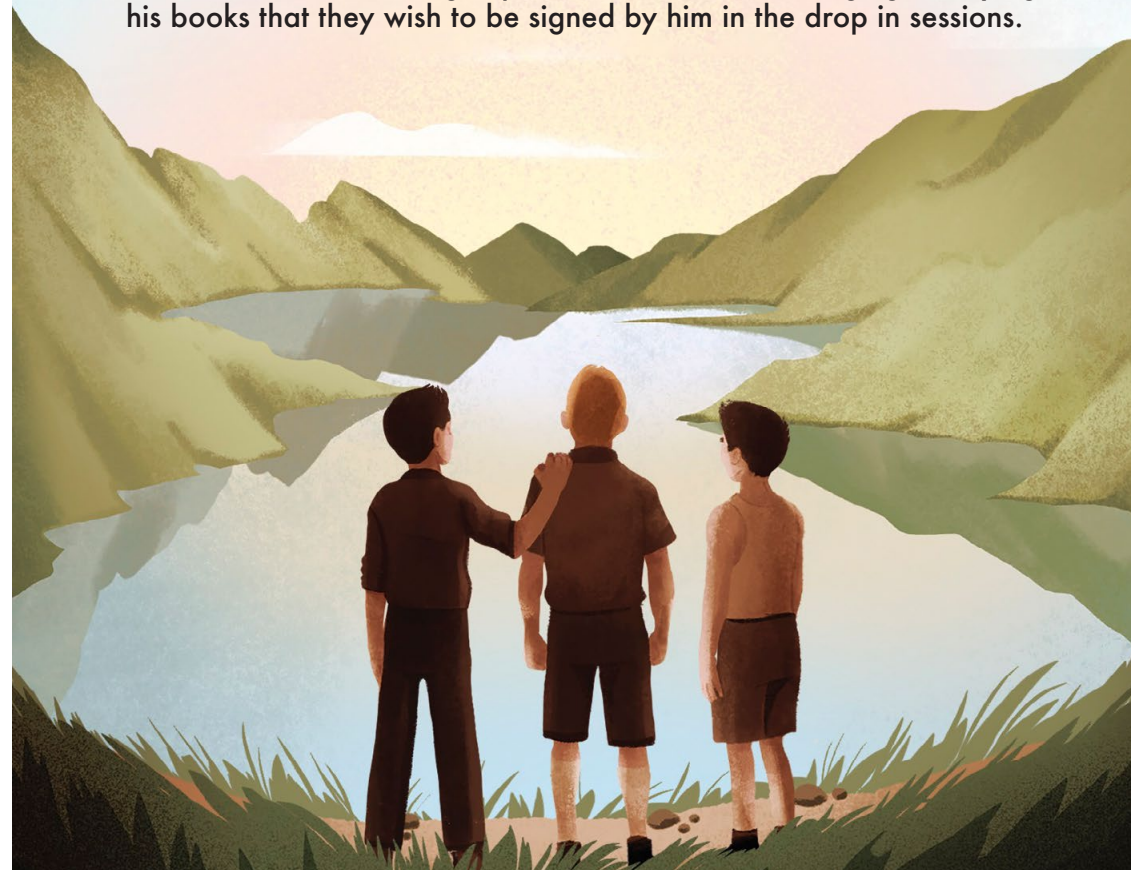
TOM PALMER VISIT

In January, in the week following Holocaust Memorial Day, we have Tom Palmer visiting school to talk to Year 7/8 students about his book.

'After the war' is recommended by The Centre for Holocaust Education, due to the extensive research carried out by Tom to ensure its accuracy.

It is a carefully researched novel based upon the testimonies and experiences of 'The Boys'. This novel allows students to explore the persecution suffered by these young survivors through a compelling story of friendship and hope. The families and the lives that these young people had before the war are prominent in this novel, enabling students to grasp both the enormity of individual loss and the loss of entire communities as a result of the Holocaust.

Students will be able to sign up to meet the author, bringing or buying his books that they wish to be signed by him in the drop in sessions.



Library news



We now have some new shelves in our library especially for key stage 4!

These bookshelves for years 10 and 11 are not fully stocked yet, we still have lots more to add. Lots of new releases and age appropriate books. We have an extensive non-fiction collections such as autobiographies from:

Michelle Obama
Stormzy
Neymar
Messi
Tyson Fury
Sarah Harding
David Attenborough

Eniola Anuko
Lawrence Okoli
Benjamin Zephaniah
Jessica Taylor-Bearman

And many more!

There are still 275 books still unreturned, taken out at the end of last year. This is close to £1800 of books and we really need them back in as we can't afford to replace them.

We've recently invested a significant amount, so students can all take out new and relevant books which appeal to all Year groups. Lots of those are still overdue and outstanding.

We need them back so other students can borrow them.

A reminder that if books are lost or damaged, students do need to replace these books, or pay the £5, just like they would at a local library.

Thank you for your support with this.

£1800
of books
unreturned

**We have managed to raise £165 for
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital!**

**This money will go towards providing new books
for young people who are in hospital.**

The following students worked really hard to raise money,
and were awarded some books of their choice, and 25
achievement points:

Martha Griffiths Jones

Annie Devlin

Erin Gaffey

Alice Ivens

Molly James

Milly Edwards



An additional
congratulations to
Mr Williams' tutor group,
who managed to raise the most money.



READING MENTORS

This term we advertised a new leadership role for Year 9 students: Reading Mentors. These students are responsible for listening to Year 7 learners read during tutor time, and helping them to develop their comprehension skills through targeted questioning.

Mrs Blackburn was blown away by the applications received, but in the end managed to select 12 Year 9 students, who have received some training to enable them to be successful in their roles. Mentors have now been placed with their Year 7 students and reading has now begun. We are looking forward to watching the progress of both our readers and our leaders in their reading journey.



Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it.

But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure.

When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden.

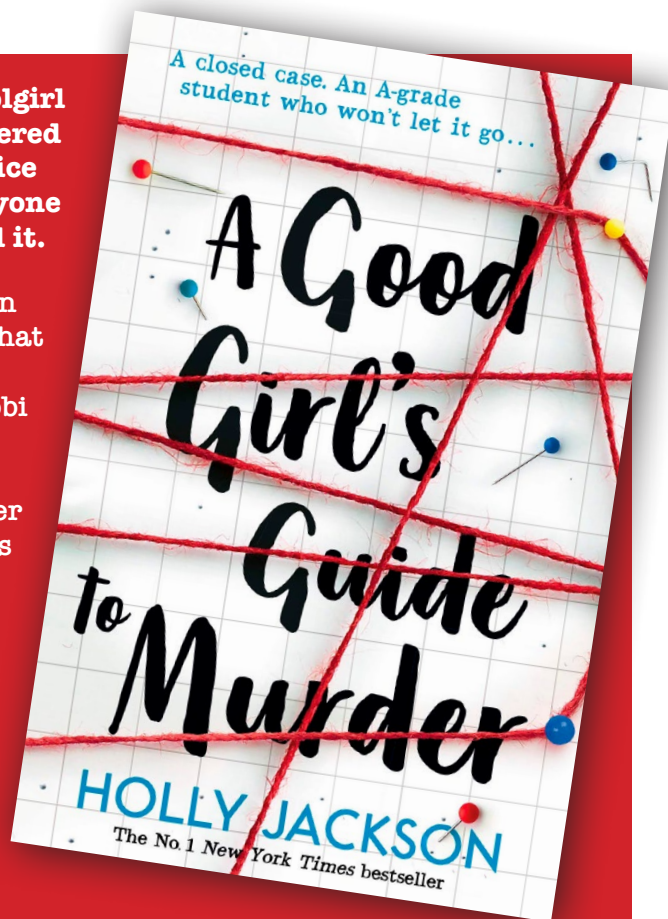
And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth . . . ?

This book is made up of a series of extracts from Pippa's EPQ assignment, police reports, witness interviews and the standard story format, so it makes for an interesting read.

"This book was highly engaging and had me guessing right the way until the final pages."

This book is suitable for those who enjoy the crime/thriller genre, and who like to be a part of the detective process.

Highly recommended if you're looking for a Christmas present recommendation for Year 9-11 students.



The Young Adult winner has now been announced for **THE DIVERSE BOOK AWARDS**

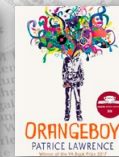
These awards shine a spotlight on diverse and inclusive books in the UK. We have this book in our school library.



"There is a wealth of great talent out there but many of them face real barriers to getting their work seen and published. The Diverse Book Awards will remove those barriers"



Reading awards!



Bronze Award

Lewis Boak achieved his Bronze for reviewing Karl Nova's book - great job!

Well done to Krash Pearson who has read and reviewed Grow, THUG and Orangeboy and has been given his bronze award.

Maisey Houghton has reviewed Rat and received her Bronze reading award - nice work!



Silver Award




Well done to Laramie Hubbard for achieving his Silver award for reading 1984 by George Orwell!




Gold Award

Huge well done to Josie Hughes who is our first Year 7 to achieve a Gold reading award! She has written 10 reviews of books she has read and is setting a brilliant example as one of our new literacy leaders. She is also attending our second launch of the National Teen Book Club.





Our new Literacy Leaders!



We have recently added some new
literacy leaders to our team!

We welcome Josie, George, Brynna and Archie,
who are very passionate about
reading and writing.

They will all make a great addition to our
existing literacy leaders.

