

# LHS

## Reading Newsletter

*Summer 2022*

**'Heartstopper' and our  
latest book reviews!**

**World Book Day  
top 25 books!**



**Holocaust survivor  
and author Tom  
Palmer meeting!**

**Find out what  
Mr Gregson is reading-  
full interview inside!**



# Reading Newsletter

*“Words are the most important tool that a person has. Whether we read them, write them or speak them, the power of words can never be underestimated.”*

A very warm welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year and from myself. My name is **Miss Walker** and I have recently joined the wonderful team here at Longdendale High School as the **new Literacy Coordinator**. I have led literacy for a number of years across Manchester schools and worked closely with the National Literacy Trust, and I'm **delighted to start a new journey here**. I am very much looking forward to working with the staff and students to continue to raise the profile of literacy and take it to the next level.

A huge thank you to our **outstanding literacy leader**, Chloe, in Year 10. She has done some phenomenal work over the past two years and her contribution to the newsletters has been invaluable. **A big thank you to all of the staff, students and literacy leaders who have also contributed this year.**

With the school holidays fast approaching, why not have a read of one of our summer sizzlers! **Head to the recommended reads section** and see what takes your fancy!

## **You've spoken and we've listened!**

From September, you'll see some **very exciting changes** around school, including some great student leadership opportunities, lots of competitions, and something really huge! **Keep your eyes peeled!**

**Have a wonderful summer and stay safe!**

*Miss Walker*



# HEARTSTOPPER

Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...?

Charlie Spring is in Year 10 at Truham Grammar School for Boys. The past year hasn't been too great, but at least he's not being bullied anymore. Nick Nelson is in Year 11 and on the school rugby team. He's heard a little about Charlie – the kid who was outed last year and bullied for a few months – but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him.

They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner...

Now turned into an extremely popular Netflix series, Heartstopper is a feel-good teen romance perfect for everyone. It encompasses all of the teenage worries, as well as larger issues including homophobia. This is a book where anyone can feel safe, so there is no surprise how popular it has become. Relatable characters, adorable relationships, teenage angst and love, it has it all.

Written not as a book but as a comic strip, Heartstopper is available to all levels of readers and means that everyone can access a book that they relate to. Also included in the series are novellas which contain more description/writing with some pages of illustrations. This means that as you read more, you progress in level and therefore helps people who may not have originally loved reading. I would highly recommend this book to everyone.





# I AM MALALA

## HOW ONE GIRL STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND CHANGED THE WORLD

**This book is about a girl called Malala, who fought for girls' education.**

Malala and her family lived in Pakistan at the time the Taliban ruled. Malala was just ten years old. **Females were not important in their culture** but males were considered highly important just because they were males. The Taliban bombed schools and made certain rules just for women. If anyone disobeyed their rules they were punished – some people were hung in the town square. Girls were not allowed to go to school but Malala's father owned a school and encouraged girls to learn. Her father received death threats because he allowed girls to go to his school. When Malala did interviews about her campaign for girls' rights to education the Taliban weren't happy about it.

She **spoke out against the extremist views** of the Taliban. She wanted girls to be allowed an education and be whatever they wanted to be when they grew up. In 2012, Malala was on her way home from school and her bus suddenly

slowed down, members of the Taliban got on the bus and asked, "Who is Malala?" They then shot her and two other girls on her school bus. **They shot Malala in the head.** Malala was rushed to a hospital, but two doctors from Birmingham said that she had to be moved to another hospital in Pakistan. She needed risky operations to survive and they had to be done in England. The doctors put her in a coma and flew her to Birmingham. They did operations on her and left her to recover in the ICU unit.

She woke confused, but she couldn't speak and she had to have physiotherapy to be able to move again. Her parents were still in Pakistan worrying about her but she had a few phone calls with her Father and she was told not to cry. A few days later, her family flew over to live in Birmingham where they were safer. When Malala was fully recovered they showed her their new family house in Birmingham. **She now campaigns for women's rights** and raises funds to fight against the Taliban and help people like her.

My favourite part was when Malala did all of her speeches for girls' education even when she was my age. It was my favourite part because she was so young but **her messages were so powerful.**

My least favourite part was when the Taliban got on her school bus and shot Malala and two other girls on the bus. It was my least favourite part because she almost died and she didn't deserve to die. **She was shot just for campaigning for her rights and her freedom.**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book because it was so interesting following her life of campaigning for girls' education. All of her speeches were moving and really powerful.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys learning new things at school and who thinks **others should have a right to an education** as well. I think this book would be suitable for age 11+. **I rate this book 5 stars.**



***"One child, one teacher, one book,  
one pen can change the world"***



# Summer Sizzlers!

# Recommended reads

## year 7



Set in Jakarta, when Budi's dreams of escaping poverty through football stardom abruptly end, his life spirals as he finds himself owing money to a very dangerous man. But through sheer force and determination, he resolves to put everything right.

A thought provoking and atmospheric story about Amihan, who lives on an island affected by a leprosy outbreak. Forced to leave, she finds some unlikely allies in her quest to return home.



Jess creates the world of Terabithia to escape from his annoying family. Reached only by a rope swing, he and his friend Leslie live out their adventures, until an earth-shattering tragedy strikes...

## year 8



Ashley has no idea that her late-night graffiti will change her life. First, she feels uncomfortable, then she receives notes and finally she realises there's a stalker!



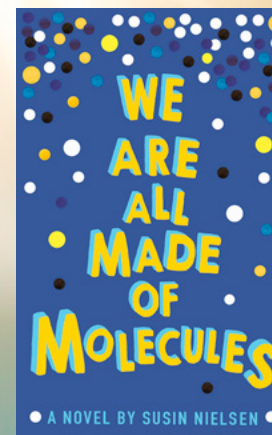
## year 9



A captivating and fast-paced story about Lydia, who is desperate to fit in at a new school. When she's accused of stealing, her life begins to spiral out of control until an unexpected opportunity arises to set things right. A real page-turner with a savage twist ending!

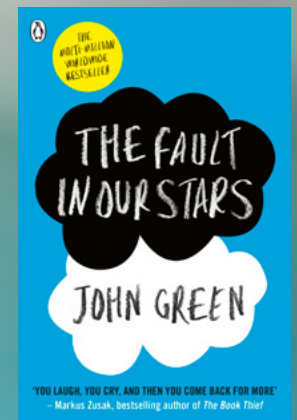
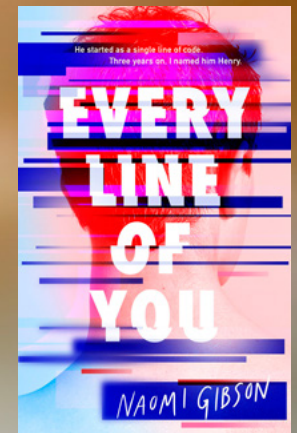
When Lydia builds an AI friend to fill a void in her life, nothing can prepare her for what happens when Henry turns from a computer into an overprotective defender!

## year 10



Stewart has a slightly different perspective on life to those around him. He finds life difficult enough before he is thrown together with his new step-sister, the extrovert and social magnet, Ashley. Life gets more interesting at school...

A stunning story of love in the face of adversity. When terminally ill Hazel meets Augustus, the short time she has left to live changes course in ways she could never have imagined.



# HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND AUTHOR TOM PALMER MEETING

**On Monday 24th of January, a selected number of year 7s and 8s were lucky enough to be joined by a real holocaust survivor.**

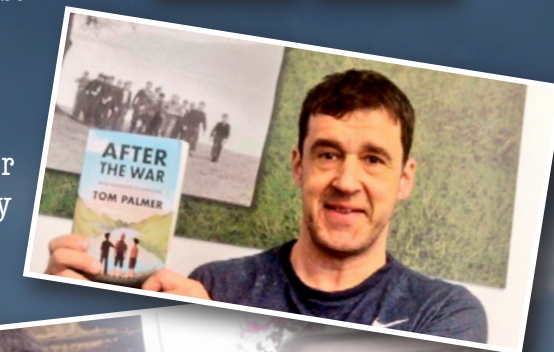
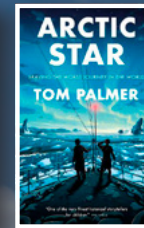
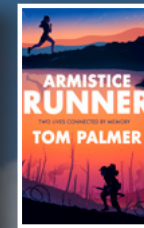
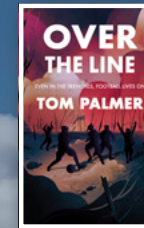
This superb woman met us online alongside the National Literacy Trust. The woman told us her outstanding story, leaving many of us grateful for the things we may not have previously appreciated. When the young woman was taken from her normal life of school, family, and friends, she was just nine years old, and once she had been released, she was fourteen. From being crammed into tiny spaces, and being fed extremely poorly, this inspirational woman really has seen it all.

This is why Longdendale is extremely privileged to have been joined by this holocaust survivor, and why so many people were astounded by the experience. The holocaust survivor was asked what she thought was the most important message she took away from the experience. She replied **“To be an upstander, speak up if you see discrimination of whatever kind.”** This message is extremely important, but it is even more important from someone who has had to put up with so much pain, so let’s try and follow her message, so that there is never another holocaust.

Alongside the holocaust survivor was Tom Palmer who is an author of 54 books, one of which is called ‘After The War’. This book features 3 holocaust survivors, who have been brought to a place of safety.

We were lucky to have him join us, and answer all of our questions. Tom feels passionately about the events that happened, and how it must have felt for those people, so he has met with multiple holocaust survivors to hear their stories, and how they dealt with it.

Everyone was incredibly pleased with meeting a holocaust survivor and author Tom Palmer, as it may have been a once in a lifetime opportunity. Thanks to everyone involved!



# Mr Gregson Reading Interview



Do you fold the corner of your book?  
**No! I actually use a ten pence coin to remember my place in a book!**

What is your favourite book of all time?  
**Periodic Tales by Hugh Aldersey Williams.**

If you could be a character from a book, who would it be, and from what book?  
**Frodo from Lord Of The Rings, because of all of the adventures.**

What fictional character would you like to meet?  
**Dumbledore, because I would like to compare our cool beards!**

What was your favourite book when you were a teenager?  
**Hatchet by Gary Paulson.**

Do you stop at the end of a chapter?  
**Pretty much always!**

Do you prefer a physical book or an eBook?  
**A physical book because I like to get a screen break.**

What is your favourite thing about books?  
**I love to escape this world and go into a different one. I love to explore and have a fun adventure.**

What are you currently reading?  
**The Terry Pratchett series.**



## Classic Literature

Louis Kidger

Older works are often perceived as being archaic; as being outdated works that represent a bygone era, with language that hinders the enjoyment of reading; of being written by and representing the views of white middle and upper class males isolated from reality. It is largely for these reasons that many people in the modern era have a seeming aversion to these great works. However, it is my belief that these books have a lot to offer to the modern reader.

Many modern works of literature are based upon the stories of older works, for example Noughts and Crosses, which follows a similar plot to that of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, which in turn ultimately branched from Ovid's Pyramus and Thisbe, the difference between oldest and youngest being nearly two millennia. This shows how the stories told in older literature are as good as, if not better than, the plots and stories of modern literature. The stories themselves are timeless classics.

I would love to be able to say that older literature is as easy to read as more modern literature; however this, unfortunately, is not always the case. Older texts can be perceived to be denser and more challenging than modern works. Often, however, this is, I believe, due to their greater, more vivid description, perhaps at the sacrifice of succinctness. Exposure to this style of writing will certainly aid the eloquence and comprehension of a modern reader. In my experience, older texts soon become easy to read as one becomes used to the style of writing.

Classic literature is just as relevant today as it was when it was written. Classic literature can provide a fascinating insight into the way in which we live in the modern world just as much as a modern Carnegie medal winning book or similar. An example of this is the aforementioned Homer's Odyssey. Despite being over two and a half millennia old, The Odyssey presents vividly relatable characters and their struggles in a way that would rival the greatest modern works, and I think that this is a trait that can be seen across the spectrum of all great classic literature.

This serves to demonstrate how the constancy of humanity and its flaws allows for all great works of literature, no matter their age, to be fascinating, and to provide the reader with unique insight into the way in which we live.

It is imperative that we expose our minds to a wide variety of literature as this allows for a great level of understanding and exposure to language.

Recommendations:

The Picture of Dorian Grey, Oscar Wilde  
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens  
Persuasion, Jane Austen  
Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë  
Treasure Island, R.L. Stevenson  
A Study in Scarlet/ the Sign of the Four, A.C. Doyle  
The Odyssey, Homer

# THE HUNGER GAMES



Only the girl on fire can unite the districts...

The annual Hunger Games has come around again and in District 12, the mining district, everyone is getting ready to find out who will be joining in and risking their lives for their district. However, when Primrose Everdeen's name gets chosen, her sister Katniss steps in and takes her place beside Peeta Mellark. But both of them don't know what they have been chosen to do: survive. But to survive, only one can win... The Hunger Games. All whilst everyone is watching.

Suzanne Collins has really created a jawdropping book that is a real page turner. Each page leaves you on a cliff-hanger making you want to read on and see what happens to Katniss. It is a truly perfect book for any teen and for anyone who loves reading dystopian/futuristic books.

This book is the first in a trilogy and The Hunger Games makes you want to read the rest. Although all three have been made into films, the book is 100% better. The way Suzanne Collins really immerses you into the world of Panem is something that the films don't have. Whilst the actress Jennifer Lawrence does a good job at playing Katniss in the films; I feel the book will totally immerse you in Katniss' story, with you wanting to know if she survives.

I highly recommend this book.

"Happy Hunger Games and may the odds be ever in your favour."



# Are you a reluctant reader, weak reader, or dyslexic?

Do you find yourself staring at the pages of an open book just to appear like you're reading?



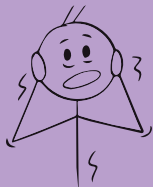
Do you find yourself reading the same sentence over and over again but you still don't know what you have read?



Do you find reading challenging?



Do you find reading stressful?



Do the words blur?

...in rate of reading. All the words known (1987) available to the results of the test. ... of 23 remedial high school students and a matched control group. Significant improvement for the experimental group was noted for time needed to locate words on a printed page, timed reading scores, length of

Answered **YES** to any of these? **Keep reading!**



There are many alternative ways to access reading. In this section of the Newsletter we'll explore some of these to help you get on track with your reading journey.



Try an **audio book**. You could even listen to the book whilst following along with the text.



Copy texts in to **Immersive Reader** to listen to via **Word Online** in your emails.



Download the **Speechify** app.



You can scan text and it will read tricky words or passages for you.

**Dyslexic font available on Sora**



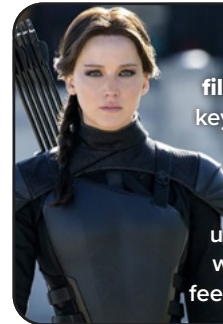
Explore Sora and switch your settings to a **dyslexia friendly font**.

If you find that the text is regularly blurring it may be that you need an **eye test** or would benefit from trialling a **colour overlay**.



**Turn on English subtitles**, this increases your exposure to vocabulary and you'll be reading without realising.

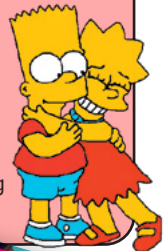
For some readers experiencing the **film first** can be the key to accessing the book. It can help to prepare and provide prior understanding that will make the book feel less challenging.



Sometimes, it's ok to **have a break**.



Take the lead and **read to/with a younger sibling**. This helps you to slow down your reading and work on the basics whilst also supporting your sibling.



**Barrington Stoke** offer books that are appropriate to the age of the reader but they are edited to suit lower reading ages. Libraries can be a daunting place especially when you feel unable to access many of the books, both Sora and our school library have a range of Barrington Stoke books.

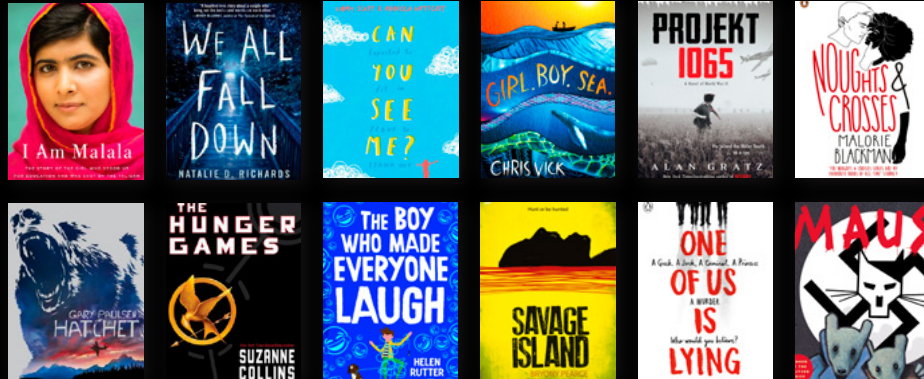
**Barrington Stoke**  
cracking reading

**Vary your reading** and expose yourself to as many different text types as possible. Try magazines, reviews, news articles, blogs such as Teen Vogue, fiction books, interviews, non-fiction books, poetry, jokes etc.

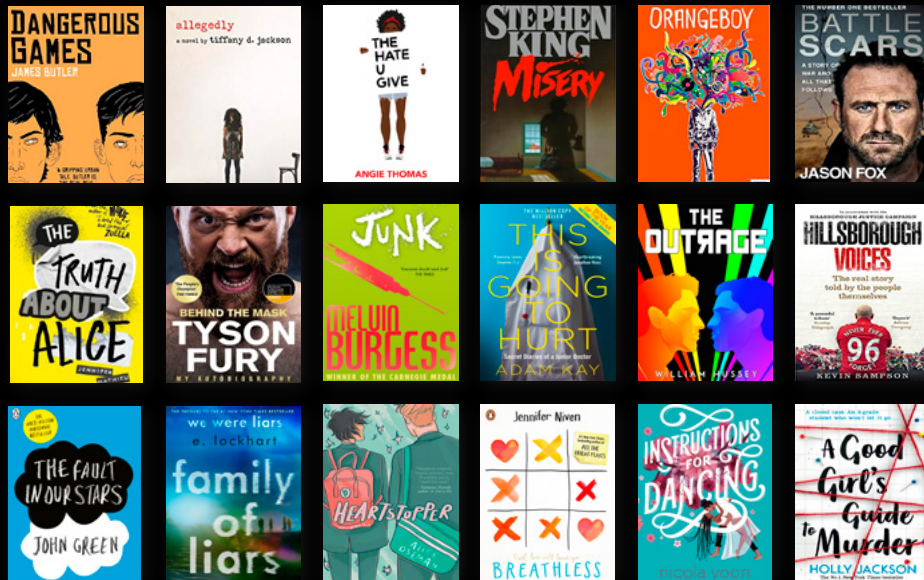


# BOOKFLIX

## TOP PICKS FOR KEY STAGE 3



## TOP PICKS FOR KEY STAGE 4



# THE CROSSING

Manjeet Mann

The Crossing is an inspirational story by Manjeet Mann that shows how if you set a goal for yourself, with enough motivation you can achieve it.

The two main characters Sammy and Natalie both want to complete something, Natalie wanting to swim the Channel and Sammy wanting to make it to a safer place since he is a refugee. Whilst only Natalie is able to complete her goal, the story shows her determination. The book also shines a light to refugees and what they have to go through, escaping their country.

Overall, I think it's a hopeful story which presents issues that many face.



"A hopeful story"



*Something*

**EXCITING**



*is coming...*

**(keep your eyes peeled for news  
about our library – coming soon!)**

