



Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2



Welcome to our second newsletter of the new academic year. We hope your children have enjoyed being back in school as much as we have enjoyed having them back.

This term's newsletter gives you an update on all of the exciting things we've had going on over the first half term. We have some wonderful reviews from our recent poetry performances from Isabelle Thomas and Gulliver Hubbard, information about re-opening of the school and local libraries, book recommendations from staff, details on a free digital newspaper for learners and some exciting news about Sora.

As always we welcome your feedback and will be sending out a survey to find out your views on how we are promoting reading for pleasure across school. We had some great responses at the start of term, and want you to see how we have used this feedback to improve reading across the school. Keep the ideas coming, and we will aim to act on as much as we can.

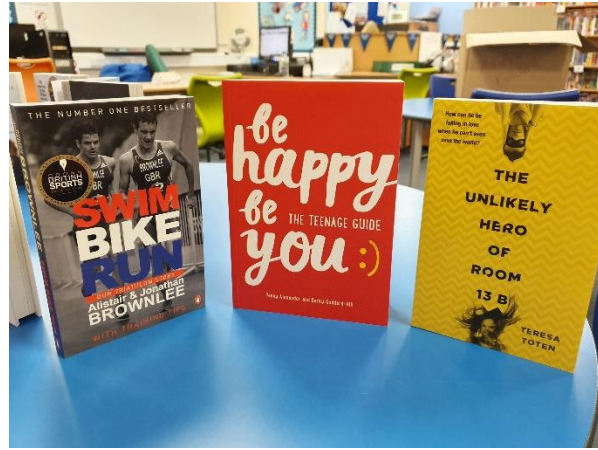
We were really sad to hear of the passing of David Moore, a former governor of Longdendale High School. Along with being a governor, he also moderated the PE assessments and played a starring role in the school production of Oliver. It was one of the first productions at Longdendale so staff, pupils and parents were all invited to audition, even the headteacher played Mr Bumble. David received amazing reviews in the Glossop Chronicle and talked fondly of it with family members.

David's family made a kind donation in his memory, towards a selection of books for our school library. The books are related to his personal interests and are motivational, inspirational, and encourage resilience in young people. The books will be displayed in the library so learners can see them. We would love some of our learners to take out one of his books, and let us know what they thought of them.

Mrs Emery

(Reading and Literacy Coordinator)

In Memory of David Moore



The Importance of Reading for Pleasure



National
Literacy
Trust

Reading for pleasure has many benefits. It can increase empathy, improve relationships with others, reduce the symptoms of depression and improve wellbeing throughout life.

It can also help young people to identify with issues in books and help them to find solutions to problems they may encounter in their lives.

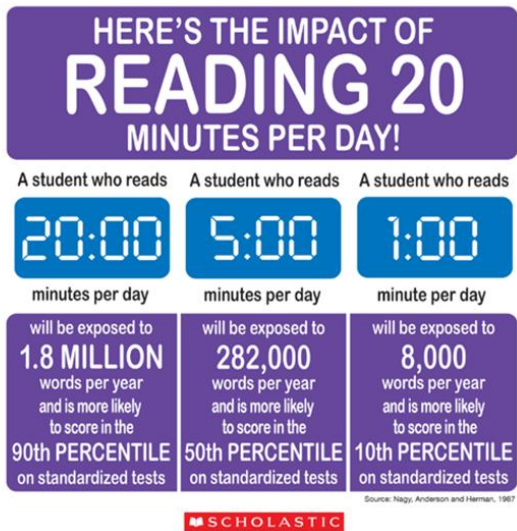
Reading is also a good way for teens to relax. Listening to an audiobook is just as beneficial as reading a book themselves.

Sora- The Digital Library



In September, upon their return to school, all learners had a tutor session which showed them how to access Sora. Learners have been keen to use this new library system in tutor time DEAR sessions, but the data we are seeing shows us that learners are using the app at home during the week, and at weekend too. This is amazing to see.

We are able to track how many books are being accessed, and how long our learners are spending reading per session. Remember we are aiming to try and get all children to read for pleasure for around 20 minutes a day. Please see below the data for September and October.



September:

Books Accessed- 1478

Checkouts- 838

Average Minutes per day, per user: 13.47

October:

Books Accessed: 715

Checkouts- TBC

Average Minutes per day, per user: 10:06

We received exciting news from Sora, which confirmed that Longdendale are the second most engaged school in the UK in usage of the app. This is fantastic, but we'd like to be first by Christmas. The challenge is on!

Most engaged schools	
1	Cambourne Village College (2,486 checkouts)
2	Longdendale High School (838 checkouts)
3	St. Anselm's Catholic School (626 checkouts)

If your child is still struggling to log on to Sora, please send us a quick email to literacy@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk and we will support them getting started.

Competition time! There will be book token rewards for learners who have spent the longest amount of time on Sora in Autumn 1 and Autumn 2. The English department will be asking to see their home page on Sora, so encourage them to up their reading hours to be in with a chance to win!



Reading Lists Update

Subject Reading Lists

(Click to View)



On the school website, in the library section, you can now access our reading lists which have been created by individual departments. We have now also managed to purchase 32 of these on Sora, so learners should be able to take out some of these books. Over 50 of the 100 books recommended by English teachers are available on Sora also, so please encourage your child to take one out. There are over 200 audiobooks online as well, and we have just purchased some additional ones to appeal to a wide variety of our Longdendale readers. Below are some of the new titles we have purchased.

E-Books



Audio-Books



The Day Online Newspaper

UK INTERNATIONAL

THE DAY
NEWS TO OPEN MINDS

THE FUTURE OF
DEMOCRACY

Longdendale High School

HOW TO USE

SIGN OUT

MY ACCOUNT

Search The Day



- [CLIMATE](#)
 - [CONFLICT](#)
 - [POLITICS](#)
 - [SCIENCE](#)
 - [TECHNOLOGY](#)
 - [CULTURE](#)
 - [HEALTH](#)
 - [SPORT](#)
 - [MONEY](#)
 - [SOCIETY](#)
- MATHS ENGLISH PHYSICS BIOLOGY CHEMISTRY HISTORY GEOGRAPHY RS PSYCHOLOGY D&T SOCIOLOGY MEDIA BUSINESS ART & DESIGN CITIZENSHIP PSHE IB

Based upon feedback from parents and learners, we have subscribed to 'The Day' an online newspaper aimed at KS3-5 learners. This is an amazing resource, with news added daily, which is focused on current affairs from across the world. Sectioned into typical newspaper headings, the newspaper also has subject specific news, so learners can find articles linked to topics they are currently studying. Not only is this a great resource for reading for pleasure, but it can be accessed for research activities, and has a search engine to allow learners to find articles linked to areas of interest.

Designed to spark curiosity and develop independent learning skills, the articles all have links to additional newspaper links based on key features in the stories, along with YouTube links to give them more information on the subject they are looking at.

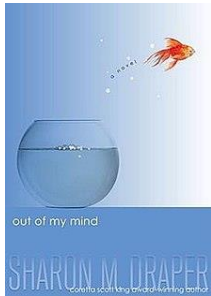
The newspaper can be accessed via the school portal, as illustrated below, or by using the link which has been sent out to all learners via email. Please encourage them to save this as a bookmark onto their tablets, laptops or mobile devices, to ensure they are able to view the articles online.



Book Recommendations

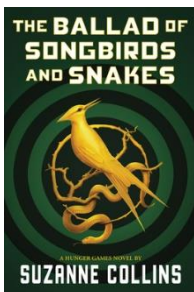
One of the best ways to encourage young people to read for pleasure, is to talk about the books you are reading with them. The staff at Longdendale are keen to develop the love of reading in our learners, and will therefore be sharing their thoughts on Young Adult Fiction titles they have recently read, which may inspire your child to want to try one of their recommendations!

Mrs Emery
Recommends...



This book was recommended to me by Mrs Willis when I was compiling the department reading lists. She told me this book would be great for our learners who want to develop their resilience, and told me I would love it if I read it. So this half term I decided I would read it. It was amazing. This book is narrated in the voice of Melody, an 11 year old girl who suffers with cerebral palsy. Melody cannot speak, or move her body. Her only means of communication is through blinking. Doctors gave up on her when she was 5 years old and told her parents they could move on with their lives if they put her into a nursing home. But Melody's parents knew she was clever, and that they would never give up on her. This story is heart warming, emotional and uplifting all in the same breath. It makes you reconsider your own outlook on life, and if you've ever said something is too hard, you can't do it, or given up on something you've found difficult, then Melody's story will change your life. Just see what she is able to achieve, despite her many barriers. A must read for all young people in my eyes!

Miss Wither
Recommends...



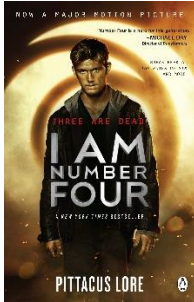
I am in the middle of reading The Ballads of Songbirds and Snakes: I've always been a fan of The Hunger Games trilogy, and I like to keep up with what the young adults are reading because of my job. This is an engaging book. It's a prequel, written from the perspective on Snow (the bad guy from the previous books). It follows his rise to fame. It shows another, more human side to this antagonist, and, unlike the previous three novels, is written in third person.

I am enjoying this book; the character Lucy Gray is a compelling love interest for Snow, and reminds me of a less tamed, more secretive Katniss. I haven't finished the book yet, but I would recommend, as it's an enjoyable read. However, it hasn't got the same sense of realism and grit as The Hunger Games, in my opinion, so this makes it seem a little less adult and believable to me. I reserve judgement though, until it's finished. Definitely worth a go!

This book is available as an audio-book on Sora!

Book Recommendations

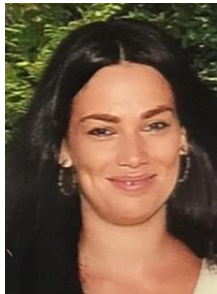
Miss Burton
Recommends...



'I am 4' is the first book in the Lorien Legacies by Pittacus Lore. The series of books follow the last surviving members of an alien race, who have been sent by their elders to hide on earth from an enemy (the Magadorians), whose aim is to hunt them down, kill them and end the race of the Lorien. If you enjoy Science-fiction and Fantasy novels, such as the Divergent series, or The Hunger Games, you'll enjoy this series.

This book is now available to borrow on Sora!

Mrs Baxter-
Smallwood
Recommends...



This book appealed to me immediately as a twin. It tells the story of Noah and Jude-teenage twins who allow love, life and tragedy growing up to tear their relationship apart. The sweet nuances exclusive to their twin relationship made me think of my own twin sister. Jude and Noah's instinctive understanding of one another their ability to communicate with just a look and the games they play as children that exclude the rest of the world feel very familiar to me!

Overall, I'd say this book has an awful lot of heart- perhaps too much for some- it's a deep exploration of the twins' harrowing and emotional experiences growing up. It definitely deals with more adult teenage experiences and would be more appropriate for older readers who enjoy exploring the emotions, stresses and strains of growing up.

This book is on our recommending reading lists for Mental Health and Well-being, but has strong links to Art too. Art, painting and sculpture are beautifully written and described throughout the novel and if this theme is of interest to you it is definitely worth a read. If your copy looks like mine, there are nice messy visuals on the page too!

This book is available to borrow on Sora!

Does your child have a book recommendation that they would love to share with our learners? Next term we are looking to feature reviews from some of our learners from across school. These can be submitted to their English teacher, or emailed across to Mrs Emery on d.emery@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk

Literacy Calendar-Autumn 2

Date	Event	About	Activities
November 2 nd -5 th	Sora Data Collection	English teachers will ask to see mobile phones of learners, so they can track how many hours they have spent reading on Sora. Screenshots can be emailed in if learners do not have phones in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewards for learners who have read for the most amount of time. New titles released and announced. Learner and Parent surveys released. New recommendations taken from learners.
13 th November 2020 (Reading)	World Kindness Day	Celebrated annually, on this day, people are encouraged to attempt to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor activities. Books displayed and promoted linking to the theme of kindness and empathy Library showing of the film 'Wonder.' https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/doing-good-does-you-good/random-acts-kindness
20 th November 2020 (Writing)	Christmas Poetry Competition- NewsCube	Learners have been encouraged to enter wintery themed poetry which will feature on NewsCube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prizes for the winning entries Winners announced on NewsCube NewsCube to edit a reading of the winning poems.
December (TBC) (Reading)	Year 11 Parent's Evening- Pop-Up Bookstore	To promote reading for pleasure, a selection of books will be available to purchase, from the subject reading lists, and other popular titles for Young Adult readers. Parents can purchase for their children, and take away the same evening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text and letter to go home to inform parents. Year 10 Student leaders to run the bookstore in the entrance hall. <p>Book order list to be emailed out to parents due to uncertainty of physical Parent's evening.</p>

You said, we did...

As promised, we wanted to give you some information about how we have used your feedback to make improvements across school. Below are just a few of the ideas and suggestions we had which we immediately worked on. We had 611 learners respond to our survey at the start of term, and 255 parental responses. Keep your eyes open for our next survey and get involved to keep improving the experiences your children have across school.

"Children need access to online newspapers and magazines"-Subscription purchased for The Day Online Newspaper. We are currently looking into other subscriptions available.

"Promote e-books as everything children do is digital"- Access to a digital library via Sora. Training session given in tutor, English teachers and tutors promoting the use of this.

"Be led by a child's interest"- Reading Inspiration booklet created for all learners linked to subjects across school. Reluctant readers list announced and new survey to get ideas for additional books to be purchased from learner recommendations.

"In other secondary schools, I've seen reception areas filled with resources such as book lists to take away for every age"- Reading Inspiration booklet is in Reception, the Library, on the school website and will be emailed out to all parents.

"Audio books. My child is dyslexic but is constantly listening to books." Sora has over 200 audio books for our learners to take out. We have also invested in 5 more this term. Information in the booklet about Tameside Library online library Book Box, where learners can access even more of these if they are a member.

"I would suggest have a theme each month or tap into seasonal or world themes." New Literacy Calendar created. Each half term parents receive a copy in newsletter.

"An incentive system -teenagers' brains respond well to rewards"- Book tokens incentive scheme launched.

School Library Re-opening

We are pleased to announce that the Covid Oversight Panel have approved the risk assessment for the partial re-opening of the school library. We are trialling the re-opening initially with Year 7 learners, who will be visiting the library this term to take out a book of their choice. Once learners take out these books they are responsible for it and must ensure they return it in the condition it is loaned to them in.

We have over 2000 books available in the school library, both fiction and Non-fiction. We have a selection of books for dyslexic learners and a range of audio-books as well. Learners can take out 1 book at a time, and have 60 days before they need to return it. Learners can still take an additional 5 books out on Sora as well as this.

We would like to encourage your children to visit the library page via the school website, and to write a review once they've completed their books. This helps others choose books and promotes a love of reading. Rewards will be given to those who complete reviews.



Local Bookshop Focus- Bay Tree Books- Glossop

Bay Tree Books is a 17 year old independent shop situated at the gateway to the Peak District in Glossop, offering a carefully selected choice of brilliant books and gorgeous gifts. Sarah Woolley is the owner of Bay Tree Books. Her background is in advertising and marketing. When her children were little (5 and 2) she was self employed and working from home and saw an article in the local paper about the owner of Glossop Bookshop who was retiring. It was a very snap decision, and some might say - with no experience - foolish! But seventeen years later, she's still there!

Sarah became a lifeline to local residents during the lockdown earlier on this year, delivering books to local children to help keep them reading. During the new measures, Sarah encourages you to visit Bookshop.org which is an online platform which helps independent bookstores to compete with large companies such as Amazon. Via this website the books will be offered at a discount to you and delivered within 2-3 working days. She is also offering a click and collect option. Please visit her Facebook page for more information.



Sarah, has a wealth of knowledge in Children's Literature, and will be more than happy to advise on ideas for books for your children. She had this to say:

"We are all facing huge challenges at the moment and books can help. Whether it be for entertainment or educational purposes, a gift or sheer escapism, there's ALWAYS a book standing by. We can help books help you."



Bay Tree Books and Gifts

Our shop opening hours are currently Wednesday-Saturday 10am-4pm

baytreebooksandgifts@gmail.com

01457 862512

96 High St W, Glossop SK13 8BB, UK



Bay Tree Books recommend
these new releases...

The Castle of Tangled Magic by Sophie Anderson

The Taylor Turbochaster by David Baddiel

The Soup Movement by Ben Davis

Jungle Drop by Abi Elphinstone

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll

After the War by Tom Palmer

The Night Bus by Onjali Q Rauf

The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

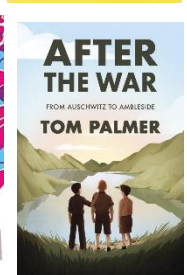
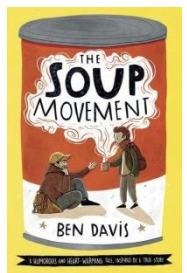
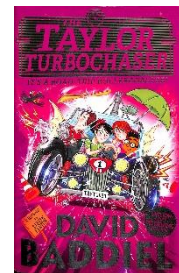
Tamarind and the Star of Ishta by Jasbinder Bilan

Breathless by Jennifer Niven

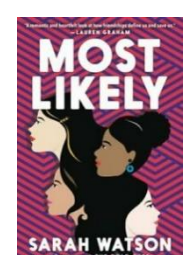
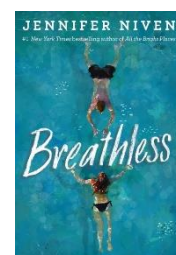
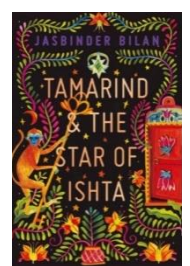
Punching the Air by Ibo Zobi and Yousef Salaam

Most Likely by Sarah Watson

KS3



KS4



National Poetry Day



On Friday 2nd October, to celebrate National Poetry Day, we welcomed Luke Wright and Harry Baker into school, two performance poets, who performed for learners in Years 9-11. Below are some of the fantastic comments we received from parents and learners about this experience! Thank you to all parents and learners who took the time to complete our surveys. This really does help us when

Parent Feedback

My son has never had so much to say about a day at school. He even played me videos of the poet's work. He really enjoyed it!

"Daughter loved it. Talked very enthusiastically about it. She was definitely engaged and found his animated presentation infectious."

"Clearly hugely inspiring and enjoyable."

"Fantastic way to engage young people with poetry, my daughter absolutely loved it!"

Learner Feedback

"I really enjoyed it, he was very funny and actually made me enjoy poetry."

"I enjoyed the poem about an English Swan as I thought the symbolism to be powerful."

"It was so much better than I expected. I thought poetry was boring until I saw this."

"His work was passionate, well written and fluent. I loved the poems he performed."

"He was better than I expected as he really performed his poems."

"I was amazed we'd got him in as he's been on the Russell Howard show and is famous. His Purple Paper People poem was great."

NB: Unfortunately the timing meant that some of the Year 9 learners were self-isolating. We asked the poets if we were able to film their performances, but this was not possible. Links to some of the poets' work can be found at the end of the reviews.

Luke Wright Review, by Isabelle Thomas



Luke began with a poem called 'B movie', the story is set in Brentwood, surrounding a 'bawdy, big bellied man who beat up his bird' named Barry, who fights a 'blob'. One thing I loved about this poem was the constant alliteration of the letter 'B' throughout the piece, creating an almost song-like effect. This poem was hilarious, so instantly captivated the whole class, despite maybe their previous apprehensions about performance poetry.

Over the course of the hour, Luke performed several different poems, with storylines involving commuters, his family and abseiling popes! Luke also performed a 6-part poem, which was around 25 minutes long. This piece was about the life of 'The Boxing Baroness', a classic rags to riches story, with a twist. The poem is set during Georgian England and draws its inspiration from Broadside Ballads. Broadside Ballads are essentially long pieces of paper, with verse written on one side of the page, these were a common way for people to receive news in Georgian times. These verses were often performed as song to spread the latest gossip, similar to how we might read tabloids today. However, the verses are often bad and barely rhyme, so Luke has begun re-writing some of them, including the story of the 'Boxing Baroness'. I was amazed at how Luke was able to remember 25 minutes' worth of poem, and perform the piece using different accents allowing the characters to be much more distinguishable.

If you ever get the chance to see Luke Wright perform live, do it! He is an incredible poet, who performs each piece with so much energy and commitment to each character. His poems are very varied, some humorous, some serious, each one captivating the audience. He is a must-see poet!



Harry Baker Review, by Gulliver Hubbard



It's not often you find yourself enjoying a Friday afternoon of spoken word with a World Slam Poetry champion, but this is exactly what lucky Longdendale learners had the opportunity to experience in celebration of this year's national poetry day. Harry Baker, who often incorporates his passion for maths into his work, captivated learners with peculiar dinosaur noises, bumblebee related performance and a love poem for prime numbers, and as the exciting programme drew to a close, learners were able to ask questions all about Harry's work. The session opened the eyes of many to the potential of modern-day poetry and the joy of spoken word, but most importantly, no one left without a smile on their face. The visit was certainly one to remember and it is truly great to see that the pandemic is not preventing Longdendale from providing amazing opportunities and enriching events.



<https://youtu.be/MAQx2DIXvbU>

Year 10 Poetry/Black History Month Competition Winner.

Please see below some of the fantastic work produced by our learners on National Poetry Day, along with the winner of our BHM competition.

The Vision of a Paramedic

Flying down the streets
Constantly receiving information about
the patient we're going to treat.
Hopefully we can get to them in time.
With blue lights flashing,
And the cars hopefully not crashing
Each call is a race against time.

Cries of help come in all day
And of course we do our best to save the
day
But it's not always possible.
Even though we use the defibrillator
And the blood pressure measurer
We can't save them all.

But sometimes it doesn't take that
As some people just need a chat,
A chat to express their feelings
Which will begin the process to healing
There is more than one way to save a life

Flashbacks of previous callouts.
Can cause multiple fallouts,
F times when we were unsuccessful
In saving the innocent lives

Sometimes it gets hard
But it helps to have my partner by my
side.
We do our best everyday,
Trying to keep you living for another day.

They've been covered in human fluids
But some people intentionally do it.
Why should they help us when many
don't give them
The respect that they ultimately deserve?

Bethany- Year 10

V- Vision is something you

I- Imagine. Vision is something you can

S- See

I- I can see myself going places

O- Over the mountains, over the sea and
if I stick to what I want to be

N- Nothing can stop me.

Dylan- Year 10

BHM Competition Winner Aaliyah Duffy

