



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Fantastic annual children's historical fiction writing challenge

Welcome!

In issue three of our Newsletter, we'll introduce our Reading Scheme to Year 7 parents, spotlight ongoing Library opportunities for students this term and offer a reminder about our discounted GCSE Revision Guides offer, which closes soon.

Have a quick look through please, you might find something of specific interest to you.

Thank you.

Mr. Bruen

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<https://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk/reading-at-lsa>

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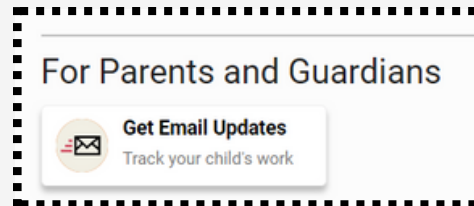
- WELCOME YEAR 7
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Accelerated reader scheme for Yr 7 & 8 ...the details

Can I check my child's **progress** on the school's Accelerated Reader reading scheme?

YES! You can. Ask your child to login through the school website : "Reading at LSA" tab, then "Reading at LSA" again, then click the "**Accelerated Reader Home Connect**" link. Once your child has logged-in, scroll to the lower left corner and you'll see an option to add your email to receive progress updates :



What is Accelerated Reader (*AR)?

It's a two-part Reading Scheme from Renaissance Learning. Firstly, students take an online 'Star Test' each term for an accurate picture of their reading comprehension skills. From the test, readers get a 'reading range' (ZPD). Secondly, children attend library lessons fortnightly to borrow, return and quiz books that they read in their own time. If you have a bookshelf at home, students can read, enjoy and quiz most of those books as part of the Reading Scheme if preferred. The scheme helps us to assign a 'level' to most books in our Library collection so that students can match books to their 'reading range' **if** they need to.

How does this "Accelerate" their reading?

Sustaining regular reading furthers reading confidence, reading enjoyment and nurtures a love of reading. We make time for sustained reading by giving each student one full lesson in the library per fortnight. School also delivers collective reading time with form tutors up to Year 10 twice a week. We know from research that sustained daily reading also builds stronger comprehension skills, a key cornerstone of learning.

Current research suggests that there is a significant national decline in book reading among secondary age children. But also that the quality and level of challenge in preferred reading books at this age stalls or declines. AR is a key part of our school's reading culture in Yrs. 7 & 8 to nurture and challenge readers, and we continue to assess reading progress using AR in Yr.9.

While reading for pleasure has its own rewards, our scheme acknowledges and places a value on book reading in the same way that subjects, lessons and extra-curricular activities garner merits and achievement points for students. Readers are awarded for each book successfully 'quizzed'. Our readers appreciate the accuracy of the termly Star Test and enjoy seeing their Reading Range grow with each new 'personal best' score.

In Library lessons, we get to chat about books together, read enjoyable short stories aloud, and encourage readers to stretch themselves by highlighting challenging (for each child based on their personal reading range) but child-friendly reads.

We host an online Library of e-books and audiobooks and a large collection of dyslexia-friendly short-reads for students who have lost the love of reading or struggle with the written word for specific reasons. Early readers can access thousands of specialist hi-low texts in the Library.

Two typical scenarios following a Star Reading Test :

Ada in Year 7 scores a high 5.5-8.4 in their Star Reading test. Like many students at LSA, this is a strong reading comprehension score. They can independently read all of the junior fiction books from the Library. Some able readers may personally prefer comics and Manga for casual reading and 'down-time'. We'll encourage them to also borrow and value books on offer for more sustained reading. Ada might also benefit from having a senior-fiction permission slip (books usually reserved for year 8 and upwards) signed by parents to open up more of the books on offer from the Library. Ada should aim to read and quiz at least 3 or 4 books each term. Reading more may garner a 'Millionaire Reader' award and pin later in the year. Millionaire Readers may be chosen in Year 9 to represent the school as judges for Lancashire Book of the Year.

Theo scores 1.2 - 3.2 in his Star Test. Most mainstream reading books for Yr.7 and up start around a Level 4 on the scheme, and so will be quite a stretch for him to grasp. If Theo struggles to successfully quiz a mainstream book, we will go through our collection of more accessible shorter reads to find books within his grasp and suggest that he borrows two or three to read over the following fortnight for quizzing in the next Library lesson. If there's a specific need, we might also encourage Theo to try the reading app where filters and fonts can be adapted and changed to suit his preferences. Theo should be reading 10 or 12 'quick reads' each term on his own or with family to build his reading stamina, practice successful quizzing and enter the grow his skills to enter the mainstream reading realm.

Both Theo and Ada are awarded the same achievement points when they pass a book quiz.

If you have any questions about AR and your child's scores, do please email me or your child's English teacher with questions, or call the school. If you have a specific special needs concern about reading development, please contact the SEND department and also feel free to contact me in the Library at our email below.

Mr Bruen
LSA High Librarian
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Bronze and Silver DofE support, Year 9 & 10

The Library supports student taking the Duke of Edinburgh Award in two ways.

Firstly, students can apply to **volunteer** as a Library Leaders one day a week for either 3 or 6 months. We're already teaching successful applicants new skills, who'll keep a record and evaluate their work as they go.

And secondly, students can use the Library to learn a new **skill**. We recommend signing-up for one or more OpenLearn Open University Courses. There are dozens to choose from at all levels. They are free. You can choose a couple of short courses or take on a more challenging longer one. Once completed, you'll receive a participation certificate as evidence from Open University for your DofE award and to add to your CV or College application.

Lancashire Book of the Year 2025



18 JUL 2024

Community and Cultural Services

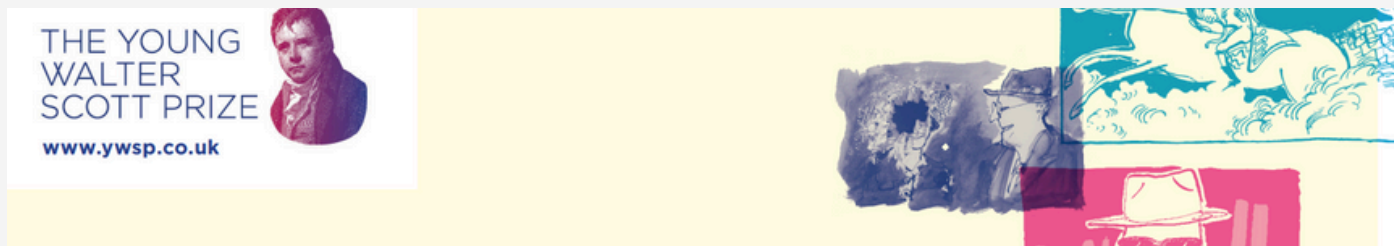
Talented author scoops Lancashire's Book of the Year Award for third year running

Once again, we're inviting our top 'millionaire' readers from last year's Year 8 to become our Yr.9 judges for Lancashire Book of the Year 2025. It's an exciting County-wide school challenge where students tackle a longlist of books from top publishers. Together, we devise our judging criteria, read through as many books as possible, debate writers strengths and weaknesses and vote for our favourites - narrowing it down to a shortlist and eventually voting for a winner in summer 2025. Our Judges will meet with some of the authors

Missed the Walter Scott Prize? Not to worry ...

Our first creative writing challenge of the year came to a close at the end of October. I've enjoyed reading contenders writings for the Young Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. We posted our pack of finished creative work to Scotland last week. So, good luck to all the brave writers who stepped forward to take part!

Next up - The (Global) Tadpole Press 100-word Writing Competition for ALL ages. Deadline November 30th. This one isn't free I'm afraid and has a \$15 entry fee for anyone who would like to take part. More info in the Bulletin to follow.



8 Historical Fiction Reads

Following on from student involvement in the Young Walter Scott competition, here's a handful of suggested reads.

For younger readers :

Now or Never - Bali Rai

A retelling of a true episode from the Dunkirk evacuation.

The Roman Mysteries - Caroline Lawrence

Accessible classic series set in ancient Rome.

Windrush Child - a post-war story of late-colonial Britain from Benjamin Zephaniah.

Sawbones - Catherine Johnson, 18th Century London is the setting for this crime thriller with young Ezra, skilled in anatomy and the dissection table, as the apprentice to a highly respected surgeon.

For more advanced readers :

I, Ada - A portrayal of the young 19th Century Mathematical genius, Ada Lovelace

The Eagle of the Ninth - Rosemary Sutcliffe

Mystery adventure set in Hadrian Britain.

HMS Ulysses - Alistair McClean's debut novel after winning a short-story competition.

Dissolution - CJ Sanson's brilliant murder mystery set in Reformation Britain.

Use the quicklist option to find more Historical Fiction in our Library here :

<https://uk.accessit.online/lyt01/#!landingPage>

REMINDER : Year 10 and 11 Parent-Pay Revision Guide sale closes November 11th.

Core subjects :

English : Additional new workbook titles have been added to the suggested list this year but if you still have copies at home from previous years, they will work just fine. There is no separate Higher or Foundation levels for English guides and workbooks.

Maths : Unchanged. Choose between a Higher or Foundation workbook first for useful practice. Then aim for two of the Target Grade workbooks at your level (3 or 5 for Foundation, 7 or 9 for Higher). The Target Guides are very good for embedding learning. Then, if you can afford it, the Maths Revision Guide, Past Papers and Revision Card pack can be useful but not essential. Past Papers can be found online for free from Edexcel. If unsure, please speak to your Maths teacher.

Science : Unchanged. LSA run two separate GCSE Science Courses, either Combined (Double) Science which is just one large book, or Triple Science with one book for each of the GCSE Sciences; Biology, Chemistry & Physics. Then narrow down what you need by choosing either Foundation or Higher. Some borderline students may be unsure. If so, please discuss with your teacher. You may find the option of Flash cards useful.

If you keep the guides in very good condition, the Library will be happy to swap your title later in the year if you change between Higher & Foundation Papers.

Other subjects:

German & French have moved to a NEW SPEC with Pearson. The new Guides and Workbooks are not yet ready. Guides purchased from previous years are of less use as a result of the changed spec. Geography is supplying revision materials in-house from this year.

There is a **new Engineering** book this year.

No changes for the rest: For **PE**, choose either GCSE or OCR Cambridge National.

Drama, Computing, Business, RS and **Food** tech just have one guide each – all unchanged from the last couple of years. No guides required for **Art** or **Music**.

If you have a general query about the sale, prices, problems or support, please email me at library@lsahigh.org or phone me.

Many thanks,

Mr Bruen



2024-'25 READING CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Year 7 inductions
Star Testing Years 7-8
Book quizzing starts, Yr.7 & 8

OCTOBER

Young Walter Scott Writing Competition
Star Testing Year 9
Revision Guide sale Yr.10-11
Lancashire Book of the Year 2025 – student judge selection

NOVEMBER

The Tadpole Press Writing Competition
Yr.11 Form visits
More Than Grades : Open University short courses begin

DECEMBER

Revision Guide sale concluded
Term 1 book quizzing ends

JANUARY

Into Film lunchtime club
Poetry by Heart competition (English Dept)
including . recital skills workshop Ruth Cockburn
Star Testing, round 2

FEBRUARY

2025 LSA High Lit-fest with guest writers, performances and poets

MARCH

World Book Day, including the
Big Book Swap Shop and more

APRIL/MAY

National book competition shadowing

JUNE

'The If Odyssey' Greek Philosophy Club
7-8 Star test

JULY

Year 9 Star test
Book quizzing closes
Reading Awards

Ongoing : Quizzing, Inter-House Reading Challenge, Student Library Leadership