



LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Welcome!

In issue four of our Newsletter. We'll be shining our spotlight on how LSA High Library celebrates World Book Day across the school community. You can also get involved by having a tidy out to support our Big Booky Swap Shop.

Feel free to dip in. I hope you find something of interest to you.

Our suggested reading list in this issue is for reluctant readers.

Thank you.

Mr. Bruen

email: library@lsahigh.org

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

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"BOOKS ARE A UNIQUELY PORTABLE MAGIC."

STEPHEN KING



Get involved in celebrating World Book Day at LSA

Big Booky Swap Shop....and more in the Library

Take part in the LSA Library Big Booky Swap Shop by having a **tidy out** of your bookshelf at home. Bring one or a handful of suitable books that you are finished with to the **Library** or School Reception between now and **this Thursday, March 6th. Receive a Library "TOKEN" for each book donated.** Watch as we build the shop over the coming week and come to the Swap Shop on **Friday BREAK** to **use your collected token(s) to pick up free book(s) to keep.** Mr. Bruen will also add some new books into the shop, so there should be something for everyone.

(If you are going to drop books off at reception, please do so at the quieter end of the school day after 3:20pm. Reception will take the student's name with any donation and the Library will issue tokens to the student in return)

Book Quizzing House Challenge

Keep making the most of your Library lessons in Yrs 7 & 8. Because, in addition to the usual House Points awarded for successful book-quizzing, for next week we'll be issuing spot-prizes to leading Form Groups that have gone above-and-beyond with their reading.

To date this year, students in Year 7 & 8 have successfully quizzed almost 3,000 books and selected short stories, collectively earning 9,000 Achievement Points in the process to!

Use the Official Tokens (no matter what year group you are in)

They may appear a little 'young', but do make use of the Official World Book Day £1 tokens we distribute to everyone in school next week before the offer closes on March 23rd.

They can be used to pick up one of the official WBD quick reads for free in participating bookshops and supermarkets – there's usually one or two suitable for KS3. Or get a £1 **discount on any book** priced £2.99 or more. Some booksellers may also allow older students to benefit from discounts on revision guides. Limited to 1 token per transaction.

If reading interest has waned for you ... remember

- Have a look at the 'Reluctant Readers' booklist at the end of the Bulletin for plenty of short and accessible books if your schedule is full of sports and study.
- Try our FREE ePlatform reading app and choose an audiobook to listen to on mobile when travelling or relaxing.
- Pop into the Library and ask for suggestions or even request a book you'd like us to purchase and stock for you, that's what we're here for.
- Ask friends or older siblings for suggestions.



Celebrating World Book Day with our Lit-Fest 2025

Booker Prize Shortlisted Writer Stephen Kelman : February 12th

All Year 9 + workshops with Year 11

Stephen launched this year's festival when he returned to LSA High just before half-term and spoke to a full Year 9 assembly about writing 'Pigeon English'. It's a book that the group have just recently finished reading with the English Department. He answered some great questions from Salim, Jacob, George, Dexter and Florence, while talking about his younger self, influences and sharing insights about his personal relationship with the story and its characters.

Stephen delivered three writing masterclasses across the rest of the day, meeting students from Year 9 and Year 11 in the Library. He set students a broad task across the 50 minutes available for each. Then making sure to visit each and every table to discuss students' ideas and deliver thoughtful feedback to each and every one. Students made the most of the opportunity with one commenting that "the knowledge I gained from the one-hour masterclass was priceless".

Poet, Writer and Performer, Ruth E Cockburn : Monday February 24th

Selected Year 7 & 8 + Poetry by Heart entrants Year 9

Ruth is a fantastic local writer, poet and performer who brings a smile to student faces whenever she's at LSA High. She ran two highly-entertaining spoken-word workshops with our Yr.7 & 8 English SEND classes on the Monday morning after half-term. After break, she met our finalists for our 'Poetry by Heart' competition run by the English Department. Ruth delivered a workshop to help break the ice and shared ideas with our young poets to prepare them for the 'Main-Event' of our final public recitals in the afternoon. Planned and hosted by Mr. Prescott, each of our 20 students did a wonderfully creative turn of reciting their poems to a panel of judges made up of School Governor Andrew Mills, Head of Year Miss Grierson and our guest Poet, Ruth.

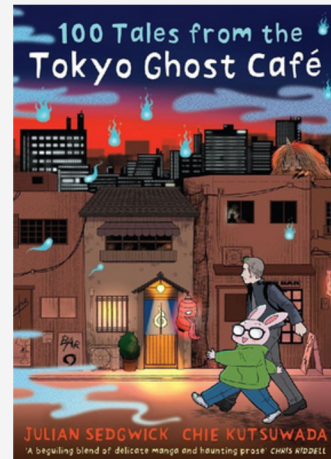
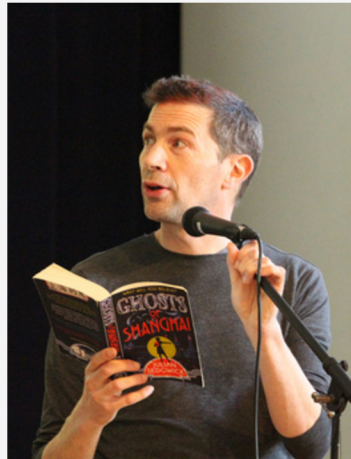


Looking towards Japan with Julian Sedgwick : Monday March 17th

Year 8 & Thrive writing workshops

Julian's love of Japan and Japanese culture is central to his writing these days. He visited LSA first in 2022 with his novel *Tsunami Girl*. A story about loss and resilience set against the Fukushima disaster.

His mix of rich storytelling with a deep understanding and perspective on Japanese culture and traditions, and a dash of Manga makes for rich reading. He'll be delivering writing workshops for 3 classes of budding Yr.8 English writers and one for our Thrive students.



Award winning Phil Earle (Date TBC in late March)

All year 7 remote visit about the form time read 'When the sky falls'

The spark for Phil's wonderful book originates in a tale he heard about the role of a Home Guard private in WW2 in Manchester. When the air-raid sirens sounded during the Blitz, it was this guards duty to head to Manchester Zoo and sit outside the Lion's cage with rifle cocked in case the zoo was damaged and the animal escaped!!

Phil took the original story and weaved it into a wonderful award-winning book about Adonis, a silver-backed gorilla and a young boy called Joseph, and the rather scary Mrs. F..

Phil will do a remote visit to Year 7 forms who will have either read the book or are in the middle of reading it with their tutors. So we'll tread a cautious line to avoid spoilers while allowing students to ask Phil questions about the book and he can offer us insights into creativity and becoming an award-winning writer.



“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller, first female American War Correspondant

Fiction ideas for reluctant readers

Year 7

Holes by Louis Sachar (adventure)
The boy at the back of the class by Onjali Rauf (real life)
Wonder by RJ Palacio (family/real life)
Coraline by Neil Gaiman (horror)
Dork diaries by Rachel Russel (comedy/real life)
Lottie Brooks series by Katie Kirby
Animal Farm reader editions or graphic novels
Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan (myth & legend)
Alex Rider books by Anthony Horowitz (Spy adventure)

Year 8 & above

Any short reads by Anthony McGowan such as The Fall or Lark are good quality page-turners for Year 8 and up.

Any Karen McManus, Ravena Guron or Cynthia Murphy crime books.

Verse novels by Sarah Crossan and Kwame Alexander have a lovely flow for the musically-minded and leave lots of ‘space’ for thoughts about what’s going on.

“No fixed address” by Susin Nielsen. Cracking opening and this thoughtful story will keep readers gripped.

“Every day” by David Levithan is a longer read enjoyed by older students at LSA. The protagonist wakes up in a different body every day with a love story at its heart.

“The Blue Book of Nebo” by Manon Steffan Ros. This short read is about as dystopian as they come. But it can also serve as an interesting reflection on the period of lockdown that some of us ‘enjoyed’ and how returning to normality isn’t straightforward for everyone.

More here under the Quicklists tab : “I don’t like reading”

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

** In the next issue I’ll outline some non-fiction book ideas for reluctant book readers.



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 (LBOY'25)

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

LBOY'25 2025, longlist judging
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
LBOY'25 Book Judges to Chorley Shortlist Event + shortlist judging

APRIL/MAY

National book competition shadowing

JUNE

'The If Odyssey' Greek Philosophy Club
7-8 Star test
LBOY'25 book judges to final UCLAN winning author event

JULY

Year 9 Star test
Book quizzing closes
Reading Awards

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