



The
Birkenhead Park
School

Spiritual
Moral
Social
Cultural

April Newsletter

Form Focus:

- ★ Mental Health Awareness Week
- ★ Ramadan
- ★ Internet Safety

Students attend a book signing with author Hilary MacKay

More than 25 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 attended a morning with author Hilary McKay, as she read extracts from her book 'Skylark's War'.

The event was held at The Birkenhead High School Academy and students were given an explanation from Hilary as to how she researched and wrote the book.

Skylark's War is Historical Fiction, and is set during the First World War, and so Hilary explained how the children then were both different and similar to children now. Miss Carr, who organised the outing, said: "We decided to take the students on this trip to encourage them to celebrate their love of reading. It gave them a chance to meet an author in person and ask questions, and allowed them to think about writing outside of the classroom."



THEME OF THE MONTH

Politics

Literacy

Students meet Rita the reading dog

Rita visited with her owner, Gwen Saccheri, who is the Assistant Principal of the Birkenhead High School Academy, where Rita attends reading sessions with the students.

The sessions are designed to help students develop an enthusiasm for reading and to bring on their confidence as they read out loud to Rita.

Our Year 7 students took part in one of these reading sessions, choosing a Tom Gates book and then taking it in turns to read the story to her. Rita is trained to fall asleep while the students read to her and follows the Kennel Club Good Citizenship's scheme in which she is close to completing her gold certificate.

Year 7 student, Logan, said; "Rita is so lovely and very calming, I think she really enjoyed the story we read to her."

Rita's visit forms part of an ongoing school strategy to encourage independent confidence in reading and to assist in increasing reading abilities.



Building Character

Students from Denmark are given a warm welcome by The Birkenhead Park School

As part of The Birkenhead Park School's international exchange programme, the two sets of students come together each year to share experiences and for the Kontiki school students it gives them a chance to study in another country and environment.

Year 7 student, Emily, said: "It has been really interesting spending time with the students from Denmark. I didn't realise how similar both cultures are and I have made a new friend."

The group of students and staff were welcomed by Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Houghton, who said: "It has been lovely to welcome back to The Birkenhead Park School our Dutch partner school Kontiki. Our students have invited their new friends to join them within lessons and to look at the different styles of learning between the two schools."



Next Month: British Values