

PSHE: Reading for Pleasure

Week commencing 2nd March

Last week we...

- Introduced the National Year of Reading.
- Discussed the importance of reading for pleasure.
- Discussed the dangers of not being literate in later life.
- Advertised the reading calendar for March events (there's another reminder at the end of these slides).
- Advertised the opportunities to read across the curriculum and around the school.
- Completed student voice about how to overcome the potential barriers to not reading for pleasure.

Student voice

Based on last week's PSHE, you said...

- Encourage more people to visit the library.
- Reading clubs for each year group.
- Advertise the reading opportunities during form time more clearly.
- More recommendations from staff.
- Be asked about what books you want to read: e.g. recommendations, surveys, topics of interest such as football/sports.
- Advertise digital options.
- Prizes for reading.
- Make reading a form time event.
- Advertise books linked to films or TV shows.
- Free books.

All of the highlighted points are going to be addressed in this PSHE session.

Watch this space for the other two!

Celebrating our successes!

Some of our students recently took part in the National Literacy Trust's *Verse Novel Challenge*. We were selected as winners! A huge shout out to the students involved: **Gabrielle E, Logan B, Daisy E, Sumaiyya H, Tiago, Alan W**. All students will receive a Golden Ticket and be entered into the prize draw.

Not only this, by winning, **students have won a whopping £500 for the school** to purchase new library books! **If you have any requests or recommendations of what we should buy, please visit the library to feedback.**

Celebrating our successes!

Our school's debate club recently took part in the Youth Speaks Rotary competition.

The following students represented our school at the regional competition in Carmarthen: Arabela Pinera 9S, Isabella Peter 9T, Layla Carr 8H, Alyssa Bidhendy 11E, Joe Wakeman 11E and Erin Thomas 10H. As always, they received special commendations and awards for their hard work. They will all receive Golden Tickets and be placed into the prize draw.

Thank you to the other students who attend Miss Thomas' debate club who have supported! Pop by and see the trophy!

Books which have inspired media

Recommended by Miss Angove, 'Howl's Moving Castle' is now a popular film. If you're an anime fan, you'll love this!



Recommended by Miss Thomas, 'The Hunger Games' is a dystopian series which has inspired 5 films (and the 6th one is on the way). This is the trailer for the new film, inspired by the series prequel, 'Sunrise on the Reaping'.

Books which have inspired media

Recommended by Mrs Richards, 'The Book Thief' offers a child's perspective of life in WWII Germany, who tries to save books from Hitler's book burnings. If you have an interest in history, you'll love this!



Recommended by Miss Hassell, for older readers, 'Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus'. An absolute classic! What happens when we disturb the natural order of things and reanimate the dead?
TRIGGER WARNING: BODY PARTS

Books which have inspired media

Recommended by Miss Flanagan, 'Lord of the Flies'. A classic about a group of young boys marooned on a desert island, desperately fighting for control and survival. This has recently been adapted into a BBC series. This is also one of the novels for the new GCSE, get reading to get ahead!



Recommended by Mrs Jones, 'Noughts and Crosses' explores an alternative view of racial segregation, shining a light on the importance of acceptance and equity in our society. If you have an interest in sociology and relationships, you'll love this one!

Books which have inspired media

Recommended by Mr Zarebski, 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' is an absurdist, sci-fi exploration to find the meaning of life.



Recommended by Mrs James, 'Ready Player One'. This book offers an exploration of the virtual world, 'The Oasis'. If you are interested in gaming and computing, you'll enjoy this fictional look at the world of VR.

Discussion

- 'Howl's Moving Castle'
- 'Frankenstein'
- 'The Book Thief'
- 'The Hunger Games' series
- 'Lord of the Flies'
- 'Noughts and Crosses'
- 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'
- 'Ready Player One'

As a form, rank the recommendations from most, to least likely to read.

Why have you chosen this order?

Can you think of any recommendations for other people in your form you would like to share?

Other Staff Recommendations:

- Mr Chappell recommends: *The Climb* by Anatoli Boulreev and G. Weston DeWalt
In May 1996, several teams attempted to summit Mount Everest but were caught in a deadly blizzard near the top. Struggling with exhaustion, low oxygen, and freezing conditions, many climbers became lost and close to death.
High-altitude guide Anatoli Boukreev repeatedly ventured back into the storm to rescue stranded climbers, helping save several lives and emerging as a hero of the disaster.
- Mr Frost recommends: *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage to the Antarctic*
This nonfiction book by Alfred Lansing tells the true story of explorer Ernest Shackleton and his 1914 Antarctic expedition.
After their ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed by ice, Shackleton and his crew were stranded in Antarctica for nearly two years. Facing freezing temperatures and dangerous seas, Shackleton led a daring rescue mission — and incredibly, every crew member survived.
It's an inspiring story of courage, leadership, and survival.

Other Staff Recommendations:

- Mr Ryan recommends: 'The Secret History' by Donna Tart (especially for older readers who are considering taking English A Level)

This novel by Donna Tartt follows a group of elite university students studying Classics at a small Vermont college.

Drawn into their intense and secretive circle, narrator Richard Pape becomes involved in a dangerous chain of events that begins with the murder of one of their own. As guilt, paranoia, and obsession take hold, the group's friendships begin to unravel.

- Miss Flanagan recommends 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo'

This novel by Christy Lefteri follows Nuri, a beekeeper, and his wife Afra as they flee war-torn Aleppo.

After losing their home and family, they undertake a dangerous journey across Europe in search of safety in the UK. Along the way, they face loss, trauma, and uncertainty, but also moments of kindness and hope.

Free books!

St Joseph's is running its first book swap! This is how it will work:

- If you have any books at home, bring them into the library next week (week commencing 9th March).
- You will receive a 'book swap token'.
- On the week commencing 16th March, the book swap will be open! For every token you have, you can take a different book home.

So go home and clear out your shelves of books you no longer want to swap out for a new one!

Competitions running:

- Y7: story telling through song
- All years: create a poster for the library
- Make a one-to-two minute video promoting or reviewing a book for the library.
- Create a book spine for the library desk
- National Literacy Trust: design a book token
- Join the writing competitions Google Classroom: [lcjkkun](#) There are lots of opportunities posted here for A Level too, such as The Royal Institute of Philosophy's latest competition. It will give you plenty to talk about in your UCAS applications!
- Join the library Google Classroom for more updates: [67pwwph](#)

If you take part in any of these activities, there are always prizes on offer!

March reading calendar:

03		MARCH					2026	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
1	 2	3 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE)	4 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY)	5 WORLD BOOK DAY	6 LIBRARY: QUIZ	7 		
8	9 BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	10 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE) BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	11 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY) BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	12 BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	13 LIBRARY: QUIZ BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	14		
15	16 BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	17 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE) BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	18 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY) BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	19 BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	20 LIBRARY: QUIZ BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	21 		
22	 23	24 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE)	25 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY)	26	27 LIBRARY: QUIZ	28		
29		31						

Let's revisit our student voice: is there anything else you would like to cover to 'go all in' this year?

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- Free books.