

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to explain a couple of recent changes regarding the way that we promote reading for pleasure and learning at Wollaston.

As you may be aware, we previously made use of the Accelerated Reader system in school- this involved students selecting their books from a prescribed reading range and taking quizzes after reading. We have recently brought our Accelerated Reader licence to an end and so firstly, please be aware that there is no longer any requirement for students to take quizzes after reading. They will also no longer be limited to specific 'bands' when selecting books from the school library. We are keen, in place of this system, to develop a whole school reading culture that is built, to a much greater extent, around the reading interests and preferences of our students.

Of course, we continue to recommend that all students read for a minimum of 20 minutes per day, beyond lessons, for pleasure and learning. This is because spending this time each day, quietly engaging in focussed reading, has many proven benefits: this habit has been linked to improved GCSE results across the curriculum, can reduce anxiety levels and develops important learning traits such as focus and patience. Neuroscientific research has linked regular fiction reading to increased empathy levels and critical thinking skills.

To ensure that our students can reap these benefits, we want to ensure that we are providing the types of reading material, authors and activities that will genuinely engage and interest them. To this end, we are asking all Wollaston students to complete a short online reading survey before the end of this term. The survey can be found here: surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GKYRM6Q

We hope to see a survey response from every student; if your child is a reluctant reader, then it is particularly important that they complete the survey to let us know their views on how we can help to change this. The answers given will shape the direction of future library stock and reading activities in school- these things must be led by the views of our students.

As a parent or guardian, if you would like to comment or add to the conversation about how we best engage our young people and help them to enjoy their reading for pleasure and learning, please do not hesitate to contact me: Woodcockj@wollaston-school.net

We will be regularly sharing a diverse range of reading ideas and recommendations via the school's social media platforms: facebook.com/WollastonSchool/ and twitter.com/wollastonschool. Please also find the termly Literacy Update and Library Newsletter below for more ideas. **Mrs Henning's termly Library Newsletter is a new addition and will provide an excellent source of reading ideas and suggestions- please share this with your child.**

Kind regards,

Jessica Woodcock

Tanya Henning

Literacy Leader

School Librarian



Literacy Update: Spring Term 1

Here are some of the ways in which your child will be developing their literacy skills this term, along with some recommendations for furthering this development at home. (Please find further guidance and materials in the 'Literacy Strategy' area of the school website- for example, advice on supporting reading at home.)

Year 7 and 8: Each week, during Library Lessons, we complete language investigation work based around a 'word of the week'.

This term's 'words of the week':

Week 1: Resolution

Week 2: Nonsensical

Week 3: Insurmountable

Week 4: Hypocrite

Week 5: Exemplary

Week 6: 'A game changer' (idiom)

Challenge your child to use these words in conversation and help them to look out for them being used in different contexts.

Year 9-13: Students in years 9-11 will be learning how to access and make use of the following sites during their 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions in tutor time this term. They are a rich source of wider reading connected to school subjects and current affairs- they provide great content for students in years 9-13 to engage with as part of their recommended minimum 20 minutes of reading per day:

COMPLETEISSUES

<https://www.completeissues.co.uk/welcome>

Username: wollaston // Password: 1234

ISSUESONLINE

<https://www.issuesonline.co.uk/subscription/login#username>

Username: wollaston // password: 7961

As advertised in form time! This Valentine's, why not try a...

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK!

To be paired with their next book based on their interests and previous reading preferences, students should email library@wollaston-school.net and we will ensure that a great book finds its way to them when we return to school!

National literacy events going on this term:



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|------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Jan 2021 | Pink Lady Apples Write It Competition | A chance to be crowned <i>Young Food Writer</i> of the Year- visit: https://www.pinkladyapples.co.uk/write-it |
| 30/01/2021 | National Storytelling Week | National Storytelling week this year will run from 31st January to the 6th February. https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week |
| 07/02/2021 | Harry Potter Book Night | Usually around the 7 th February but date tbc. https://harrypotter.bloomsbury.com/uk/harry-potter-book-night/ |

Wollaston Library News

Kindness and thinking of others have been themes since the first lockdown and are things that students have been asked to consider whilst in school.

Reading is a great way of being kind to yourself...

But...what should I read?

Checkout

www.wordsforlife.org.uk

A virtual school library by the National Literacy Trust, including authors such as David Baddiel, Tom Palmer, Bali Rai, Michael Rosen and Liz Pichon.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/library-service/

The libraries are closed but they are offering a 'Select and Collect' service. See the website for more details.

Listen to a Podcast, try..



In school we would normally commemorate the Holocaust. Check out this website for more information and life stories.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>



Holocaust Memorial Day
27 January 2021

Reading for as little as 6 minutes can

reduce stress by 60%, slow heart beat, ease muscle tension and alter your state of mind

Reading reduces stress:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 68% | 100% | 300% | 600% |
| more than: | | | |
| | | | |
| Listening to music | Drinking a cup of tea | Going for a walk | Playing a video game |



13 or over? Sign up to Twitter...

Twitter is a great way of following your favourite author. Find out the latest on new books and freebies. Look for David Walliams, Nail Gaiman, JK Rowling, Jacqueline Wilson and



Mrs Henning is reading....

American Street

by Ibi Zoboi

Fabiola has arrived in the US from Haiti with her mum. At customs, mum is stopped a taken away. Fabiola must continue to Detroit on her own. I'm currently half way through. America is not what Fabiola expected and her mum is still being held by immigration...

February is LGBT+ History Month, for the information, articles and podcasts. www.lgbtplushistory.co.uk

Lily Parr
LGBT+ Faces of 2021

Mark Ashton
LGBT+ Faces of 2021

Maya Angelou
LGBT+ Faces of 2021

Michael Dillon
LGBT+ Faces of 2021

Mark Weston
LGBT+ Faces of 2021

