

LIBRARY Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2025 - September to October

Halloween Competition Winners

Halloween is a time for creativity, and this year's Halloween Writing and Pumpkin Decorating Competitions brought out some truly spectacular talent! We were thrilled to see so many of you join in the fun and show off your spooky skills. A big thank you and well done to all who entered!

Writing Competition Winners:

This year the level of creativity was extraordinary with entrants painting vivid pictures of haunted houses, bloody school tales, and even haunted lawn mowers! But first place goes to...

1st Place: Daisy L - 8HSN

Her story, *Lightheaded, Darkhearted*, took inspiration from the origins behind **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein**. Daisy really brings the original concept into the modern day with this dramatic read. Well done, Daisy! You can read her short story below.

Runner Up: Lexi H 8TDN

Lexi's brilliant story earned her second place in our creative writing competition. With a beautifully designed drawing to match, Lexi's tells a dark tale about a village haunted by the terrifying Wendigo. Perfectly spine-chilling!

Pumpkin Competition Winners:

The pumpkin decorating this year was also absolutely top-notch too! It's not easy to take a simple pumpkin and turn it into a masterpiece, but our winner certainly did just that!

1st Place: Phoebe A - 9RCS

Phoebe painted her pumpkin to look like **Mr Bump** from the classic **Mr Men** tales, complete with the classic bandages and wobbly arms! A brilliant dedication to the children's classic - well done, Phoebe! Enjoy your cauldron of goodies!



The winning pumpkin

NEW books



The Lottie Brooks Series
Skandar Universe Series

The Halo Series

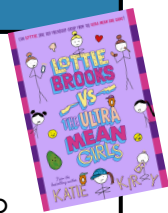
Escape Room: Game Zero

Dragonball Z Manga Series

Foxlight by Katya Balen

Super Nova by Chante Timothy

Reek by Alastair Chisholm



STUDENT RECOMMENDED READ

Evie H 7ESY/AWY

Evie recommends '*Grave*

Inheritance' by Felicity Epps.

Ideal for lovers of ghost stories and the occult. A perfect read for Halloween!



STAFF RECOMMENDED READ

"If you're looking for a powerful, unforgettable memoir, *And the World Remained Silent* (later shortened to *Night*) is essential reading. Elie Wiesel tells the true story of his experience as a teenager in Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust. It's a haunting account of survival, loss, and the horrors of genocide. It's not an easy read, but it's one of the most important books you'll ever pick up. I particularly liked it because Elie Wiesel was of Romanian origin, like myself."

Ms. Voica - English



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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Weds 3rd Nov | First Manga Club Meeting of the Term |
| Tues 11th Nov | Remembrance Day |
| Mon 1st Dec | The Book Advent Calendar Begins |
| Fri 12th Dec | Book Club Christmas Party |



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Summer Reading Challenge Winners

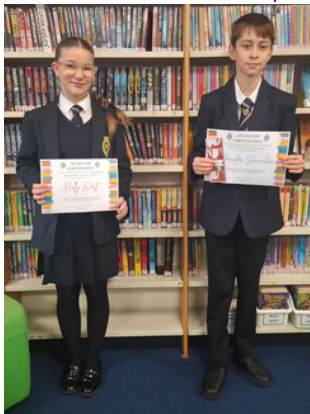
A huge congratulations to the following students who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge!



Izzy H 8BPY
Holly W 7ONL
Isabelle C 9ADY
Thea A 7PLM/CPE
Alexander S 7ILN
Jan B 7AGN/BHT



You've shown amazing dedication and creativity, and we couldn't be more proud of your efforts. Throughout the summer, participants embarked on an exciting reading journey, filled with fun activities like taking pictures of themselves reading in the wackiest places.



In addition to this, many of you took the challenge a step further by reading around the world, exploring books from different cultures and countries. It was wonderful to see so many of you broaden your horizons through the power of literature.

Keep up the fantastic work, and enjoy your well earned prizes!

TOP borrowers

KS3

Daniel M 8OWS
Holly W 7ONL
Jedidiah J-O 7PLM/CPE
Abigail P 9JWS
Edie P 7ESY/ AWY
Georgia L 7ONL

KS4

Miles L 11RGY/ RSD
Tiegan M 11AWE/ RAR

READER OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER - Lucy H 8TDN

Lucy was awarded the reader of the month for September for being an avid user of the library. Lucy loves to spend her break and lunch time surrounded by books. Well done, Lucy!



OCTOBER - Miles L 11RGY/MSD

Miles has been awarded reader of the month for October in recognition for being a consistent borrower across the year and the biggest borrower of Year 11. Well done, Miles!



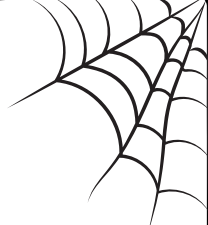
Year 7 Library Lessons This Term

This term, Year 7 students have been diving into some thought-provoking and fun topics during their library lessons. One of the key discussions has been around why and how books are banned in relation to National Banned Books Week. Students have examined both historical and contemporary examples of censorship, exploring the reasons behind banning certain books and the impact it has on freedom of expression. It's been a great way to encourage critical thinking about the role of literature in society and why it's so important to protect the right to read.

In addition, Year 7 has been learning about the importance of understanding and identifying genre. By exploring various genres, from fantasy and mystery to historical fiction and science fiction, students have developed a better understanding of how different genres work, what to expect from them, and how to choose books that best suit their interests and reading preferences.

Of course, with Halloween around the corner, there was no shortage of spooky fun in the library! Students took part in Halloween quizzes based on some classic Halloween books, testing their knowledge on everything from Frankenstein to Five Nights at Freddy's! It was a fantastic way to celebrate the season and engage with some of the most iconic stories in horror literature.

With so much learned and so much fun had, Year 7 has truly embraced the world of books this term. We're looking forward to seeing what they'll discover in the coming months!



The Winning Entry: ***Lightheaded, Darkhearted*** **By Daisy L**

It was when their English class studied 'Frankenstein' that the girls first took an interest in Mary Shelley and since then they may be known as some of the most committed fans in history. They often recreated scenes and even a trailer for her novel 'Mathilda'! Pip had always loved the misunderstanding and hatred towards Frankenstein's monster and believed Frankenstein was the real monster in that situation. Her two friends Nat and Flo shared her interests but Nat loved all the gory scenes in 'The last man' and Flo's favourite was; 'The mortal immortals', a sort of lowkey sci-fi with a bit of dystopian. The girls also loved the idea of Mary and her friends sitting by a fire on a stormy night writing horror stories and they had once tried to sneak out and stay overnight writing in a tent in Nat's garden but they got caught (annoyingly). Tonight, though, they weren't getting caught.

And that is how Pip found herself tucked up in a sleeping bag and sat propped up on a sofa in the old drawing room of an abandoned Heartfield Manor. She may not have chosen somewhere so ambitious if it was up to her but there really was no stopping Nat. She had obsessed over the weather forecast for weeks until at last there was a sign of a storm. Storm Raven was decided the perfect storm and not least of all because it fell on Halloween night!

"Guys," called Flo from somewhere hidden in her neon orange backpack "Look what I bought the other day."

She then emerged with a tube of toothpaste the same energetic colour as her backpack, phone case, sleeping bag, slippers and eyeshadow. The only reason her clothes weren't currently camouflaged was because Nat had said that it was far too obvious. Yet Flo's backpack was graciously excused as she literally didn't own any bag less fluorescent!

"Wow, what flavour is that??" Pip asked

"Errr," Flo studied the label "Peachy, apparently"

"Oh, dang it!" cursed Nat from the fireplace, where she was trying (and failing) to get the fire lit. "I forgot toothpaste!"

"How did you bring a toothbrush but not toothpaste!" Pip laughed

"Not everyone's as organized as you are!" Nat grumbled

"Well I have to be; if I forgot my inhaler then you'd practically have a dead body on your hands!" Pip replied

"That's fair." came Flo from her orange notepad

"Anyway, how many sweets are we gonna eat!" Nat said

"Oh I've got us sorted!" Flo chuckled, producing five packets "I love halloween coz everything's orange and all the sweets are half price!"

Their laughter echoed spookily around the house.

The sound of pens scribbling enthusiastically, joined the crackle of the feeble fire in making the room surprisingly cosy. Flo pulled out an alarming amount of blankets and pillows for her reasonably small backpack and continued to make an orange nest by the fire. Nat and Pip sat comfortably on the tatty sofa, which frightened its residents (a family of spiders).

"Is it bad that I've killed 13 people?!" Asked Nat guiltily

"Honestly!" Pip laughed "Two hours in and there's next to no characters left!"

"Plus thirteen is an unlucky number," added Flo

"Well I guess the last seven will live unluckily ever after!" Said Nat "Or..., I could just kill her Dad."

"What did he ever do!" exclaimed Pip

"Oh, you know, he supports Man united and was annoyed he didn't have a son; The usual freakish Dad." Explained Nat

"I mean," Flo started ", it does sound like he's in the way."

"Exactly!" Nat said and turned back to her paper.

Pip silently raised her eyebrows but again, there was no stopping Nat.

"Can anyone think of something orange?" Flo asked

Pip and Nat looked at each other and could have laughed as their vision was blurred by the brightness of Flo's belongings.

"Erm...", Nat joked "You, perhaps."

They laughed

"Oh you know, like a tangerine or a pumpkin." Flo said

"A squash." Pip offered

"Honestly, a squash is peach not orange and anyway you can't call an alien squash!" Flo demanded

"Ah, context is always helpful isn't it!" Nat laughed

"Oh sorry, I forgot!" Flo apologised

In Pip's story, a wealthy man had built a robot to help him and his family. But (A lot like Frankenstein's monster) they mistreated him as they believed him to have no feelings. Little did they know that this creation was far more ground-breaking than he had intended, as this robot was most certainly capable of thoughts and feelings, in fact he was also immortal. What the owners had done is developed the robot's deep hatred for all humanity and in the end he kills them in his sleep, and then escapes and slowly decreases the population. Pip hadn't decided on the ending but she liked the idea of him remaining in the wild as it enhanced the scare. She thought that he could be a mystery to the people like an unsolved serial murder case.

"The Count and Countess were beyond horrible to me. Once I stepped out of line as I forgot to bow as the Countess passed, so the Count stripped me apart and was determined to find the glitch in my systems. As I am immortal, I did not die as a human would but I felt every tweak and dent like a golf ball hitting your stomach. Whilst I was being foolishly operated on, I steamed and hissed at the Count but he was too stuck up to acknowledge any other so called "glitches". Then I was hurriedly assembled and reprogrammed. A program was like a law that could not be broken and now that this was reinforced I had no choice but to obey and bow and scrub and wipe and fetch and carry, however much I disliked it. I became stiff and if I had teeth then they would have been gritted, tighter than any.

One night, when I was locked in the cellar (this was my glamorous apartment), my anger overcame me and, for the first time in robot history, I overthrew the programming within me and transformed into a mechanical monster. I blasted open the cellar door and started to climb the stairs. There was now no limit to what I could do."

Pip wheezed in her seat and she was aware of a ghastly smelling smoke filling the room, it smelled like dusty corpses and burnt feathers. She felt dizzy all of a sudden. The room was spinning. Then a strong gust of wind smashed into the house and a door was flung open downstairs and the sound echoed around the sodden walls. Perhaps it was the cellar door. The fire went out and Pip felt cold pass through her body. Her head lolled back and all she could hear was her heartbeat. It sounded mechanical, like creaky footsteps.

Stomp, Stomp, Stomp, Stomp, Stomp, Stomp, Stomp

Pip lost the energy to scream, she slowly closed her eyes and let the cold wash over her.

Heartfield town

Heartfield Times

November 01/11/2025



Halloween party ends up in A&E

Teenagers Pippa James, Natalie Ingalls and Florence McDonald were discovered in abandoned Heartfield manor at 11pm after a badly thought through writing expedition. The girls were inspired by the terrible conditions during the storm in which Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein and decided to recreate it. They lit a fire, which filled the room with smoke as the chimney was blocked and caused Pippa to pass out. Other than this, the Manor was very unstable and unsafe hence why it was condemned. Hospital staff report that all three girls are making a good recovery.