

Issue 2: January-July 2021

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The Library Relaunch Issue

Downham Market Academy

Aspire Ambition Achieve

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LIBRARIAN'S WELCOME

"I've got a book on that" In the days before you could just find information from a quick Google search, this was my Dad's usual response to the barrage of weird and wonderful questions my brothers and I asked him. He's an avid reader and has a thirst for knowledge, so I was fortunate enough to grow up a house that was always crammed full of books.

The first book I read cover to cover, all by myself, was a hardback Mog book by Judith Kerr. I remember that I was so excited that I had read the whole thing to myself, that I made my mum sit down and listen to me read the whole book all over again.





ries, especially those by Enid Blyton, like *The Secret Seven* and *The Famous Five*, and I loved CS Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. However, my favourite stories were from a set of beautifully bound hard back classics, including *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott, *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *The Little Princess*, also by Frances Hodg-son Burnett, that my aunt gave to me one Christmas.

On the little high street near my house was a fantastic library, based in a beautiful Victorian mock Tudor manor house that had once been the rectory of the village church. It is the kind of building you could imagine featuring in a Dickens' novel, or being tucked away somewhere on the grounds of Hogwarts. In fact, it felt almost as magical as a school for witchcraft and wizardry when I got to curl up in one of the leather wingbacked chairs, dive into a book and fly off in my imagination to a new world.

We were always encouraged to read and allowed to read whatever we wanted from our parent's bookshelves, which meant that I was exposed to some terrific writers very early on in my reading development, such as George Orwell, Ernest Hemmingway and Truman Capote. I often selected books that my dad recommended and developed an interest in science fiction and fantasy. Then my brothers introduced me to Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman and the world of graphic novels.

With my passion for reading, it seemed inevitable that I would end up doing something bookish. I studied English and American Literature at University and then spent a few years working as a bookseller and running reading events in the coffee shop.

Eventually, I trained to teach English and quickly started looking after school libraries. When I took over the running of the library in January, I was determined to make the space cosy and welcoming. It might not have the grandeur of a Victorian manor house, but I really love how the space has turned out and it has been truly marvellous to see so many different students coming in and enjoying the space and getting stuck into a book.

ATE MOSSE

The Janus

n crime fiction

We couldn't publish a Spring edition of the magazine because of lockdown, but I do hope you enjoy this bumper Summer edition.

So, what am I reading at the moment?

- The Betrayals (audiobook)
 by Bridget Collins
- The Janus Stone (paperback) by Elly Griffiths
 - Run Rebel (e-book)

by Manjeet Mann

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Written by Anna Macullum Whole School Reading Co-ordinator and Librarian

LOCKDOWN LIBRARY LESSONS

During the first half of the year, we had to get creative with our library lessons whilst we were remote learning. We subscribed to a virtual library service that can be accessed by the Sora app on most digital devices. Every student and staff member had an account set up for them, which can be accessed using their ooblemail address as their user id.



Readers have loved being able to access books at the touch of a button 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Most students have now set up their account and have read at least one book on the app and we are encouraging all students to use the app in lessons. If you have not set up your account yet, or are having trouble using the app, you can drop into our Sora Helpdesk in the library every lunchtime.

In addition to improving your vocabulary, problem solving skills and creativity, a 2009 study by the University of Sussex found that reading for just six minutes can reduce stress levels by up to 68%. Cognitive Neuropsychologist, Dr Lewis, said "Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation. This is particularly poignant in

uncertain economic times when we are all craving a certain amount of escapism." Another study, from Spain's University of Santiago de Compostela, found that a rich vocabulary delays mental decline. Studies have also shown that staying mentally alert can slow the progress of (or possibly even prevent) Alzheimer's and dementia. Therefore, the more you read, the better your chance of mental health well into old age.





On average, our readers use Sora for 21 minutes a day and in the month of June accessed over 800 different titles. Many students have listened to audiobooks and also read graphic novels, which is are new features for our virtual library. Some readers, who already have local library cards, have connected their Norfolk library account to the Sora app too, giving them access to an even wider range of titles.

We are really pleased with the success of Sora and hope that students will continue to make use of the app over the summer holidays, either on their school iPads or personal mobile phones. Reading is the perfect way to help pass the time on a long journey or whilst lazing on the beach.



LIBRARY REFRESH WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!



After many months of remote learning, students where really pleased to be back in school after the Easter holidays. One of the big changes in school was the return of library lessons. Having been out of action during the refurbishment, students were really excited to see how the space had been transformed. The new carpet, colourful walls and furniture have really brightened up the space and made it more welcoming for readers.

Thanks to the addition of two more murals pained by our very talents Miss Kelly and her partner, Mr Clayton, the library is now a bright and welcoming space. The reactions of the students has been over-whelmingly positive.

Students have really enjoyed the new furniture, especially the big comfy beanbags that have proven to be very popular with all year groups.



LIBRARY LESSONS ARE BACK!

This term, English library lessons have finally resumed and students have been getting to explore the space and share some books.



Miss Hennigan enjoyed sharing some non-fiction texts with her classes and Mrs Macullum had students running around learning the Dewey Decimal system to win prizes in her lessons.



However, it is not just English that has been utilising the library facilities. The library has also seen science intervention lessons with Mrs Cornelius and played host to a very enjoyable Geography lesson exploring the life of the acclaimed Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who is one of our celebrated authors featured on our walls.





Year 11 also used the space to say goodbye to staff and students on their last day. Having missed out on a lot of the usual Year 11 events, such as prom, it was great to be able to give them a last school day to remember and wish them the best of luck.





Toluck



RENAISSANCE®

About Accelerated Reader

How does it work? Students read a book, take an AR Quiz, and get immediate feedback. Students get excited and motivated when they see their progress and teachers can easily monitor and manage students' independent reading practice.

Over 26,000 books have Accelerated Reader quizzes available to take. By choosing books that interest them, and which are of a suitable level of difficulty, students are motivated to read more and make greater progress with their reading skills. Keeping track of what texts students are enjoying outside of school will also enable the library to keep up with current reading trends and refresh our stock with popular titles.

We use AR at Downham Market Academy to challenge students to earn points for quizzes and to aim to read a million words each year. Every 'Millionaire Milestone' is celebrated and all our 'Reading Millionaires' will receive a certificate and are entered into a prize draw at the end of the year.

At Key Stage 3, half termly Star Reading Tests enable teachers to monitor the student's progress and reward achievement, guide readers to more challenging texts and to help identify student's who need a little extra help with reading. This test will is conducted in English lessons each half term and is used to generate their ZPD range, which is the book number range that the students should be aiming for to best develop their reading skills.

With the introduction of the iPads at Downham Market Academy, students can now take a reading quiz with ease at home and will always be able to have access to Sora, our digital library. Teachers will also be encouraging students to download class texts as well as their own reading material, so they should never be stuck without something to read. Year 7 and Year 8 have also just started doing AR quizzes and independent reading for pleasure in tutor time.



STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS



Book title: Hetty Feather Book author: Jacqueline Wilson Book illustrator: Nick Sharratt

Hetty Feather is the first of many books in that series. It's an autobiography of a feisty foundling child with a nature as wild as her red hair. A wonderful, passionate book that makes you feel like you are Hetty, writing in your precious diary.

My favourite part of the book is where Hetty is taken to the Foundling Hospital because you can feel the anxiousness and fear that she feels.

I would recommend this to ages 6+ and anyone who loves fiction stories or funny books.

Star rating:

I would give this book 5 stars because it is a funny, heart warming story that ticks every box for a fiction book.

By Violet Lucraft-Townley





MRS MACULLUM RECOMMENDS

We have had so many new books delivered this half term that it is really tough to pick just one book to recommend. However, if I had to recommend one series from our new stock, it'd have to be Artemis Fowl.

The basic background of the series is that Artemis Fowl is a teenage criminal genius who, with the help of his bodyguard, Butler, sets out to steal himself some fairy magic. We're not talking about the type of fairy wearing tutus and carrying sparkly wands though; Captain Holly Short is a strong-willed, stubborn and sarcastic elf who is 100% action hero material. When Artemis captures her in the first book, to hold her hostage at Fowl Manor, an unlikely friendship develops, as she tries to thwart his evil plans and he learns to treat magic with a little more respect.

"So what is this master plan, Fowl? Let me guess: World domination?"

I'd recommend this to readers who enjoy traditional action adventure stories with some fantasy and humour thrown in for good measure.



READING AMBASSADORS GET A



SNEAK PREVIEW!

This term there was much excitement in the library over the arrival of some new books for the library. Titles were selected and ordered from the library's reading lists for the action and adventure genre and also from the gender and identity to ensure plenty of books for Pride Month.

The Reading Ambassadors unpacked, barcoded, booked in and covered the new stock in record time and all the titles are now available to borrow from the library.













MONTHLY LIBRARY DISPLAYS



Now that the library is open for regular use, Mrs Macullum and the Reading Ambassadors have started to create displays in the library to celebrate events and seasons.

Last month was Pride month and in recognition of this event and to promote our gender and identity reading lists we created a colourful rainbow themed display of LGBTQ+ titles available to borrow from the library.



AUTHORS OF THE FUTURE

It was quiet, the only sound coming from the scuttling rats, and the odd cat slinking through the bushes and walking along the fences. On the right of the street, a line of bins, bins that were standing along outside fences, desolate and absolute in the way they were just there, frozen, like soldiers ready for battle.

The streetlamps flickered, leaving dark shadows for monsters to hide in, enhancing the paranoia that surrounded the area. On the floor the black tar-



mac glistened from the rain, picking up and reflecting the smallest amount of light back up into the night sky. On one side of the road, behind the bins, was a dark fence, the rotting wood and the peeling varnish making the fence look like it could collapse at any moment. On the other side was the houses, the dank plaster on the outside going green from mould and damp. On top of one of the chimneys was a single crow, ominously calling to its friends. And there, at the end of the road, was a grey fence, blocking exit or entry from the street, forcing outsiders away.

It did not welcome people, it controlled them, forcing them to do what it wanted. The sharp, shiny, silver barbed-wire gave a clear message that entry to the street was forbid-den for outsiders and exit was not an option.

Scott Lipscombe Year 11

If you would like to share some of your own creative writing in our next issue, email your work to Mrs Macullum.



LIBRARY EVENTS

We have had a cracking year for events even though it has been a bit unusual.

Following on from our Gothic Reading event, the launch of our library magazine and the 12 Books of Christmas Reading events in the first term we have had a range of

reading events. We had our World Book celebrations in March, Drop Everything and Read day in June and Year 7 and 8 Reading Picnics in July.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 intake with a Reading picnic in the first few weeks of the new term and continuing with the Drop Everything and read days. We are also looking forward to starting a book club after school.





WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATING REMOTELY





Every year thousands of children across the globe celebrate World Book Day. At Downham Market Academy, we don't just celebrate a day, we have a week of activities and competitions to recognise this fantastic event. This year was no exception, albeit a slightly different event due to lockdown.

The week kicked off with an assembly featuring the marvellous musical musings of Mrs Geary to introduce our theme of **Heroes and Villains**.



MASKED READERS



Every morning students had an opportunity to take part in the Masked Reader Competition. Several staff members read from behind their books each day, and we had to guess who they were. There were masks, hats, wigs and carefully placed books to conceal the readers identities. I think it was fair to say that some of the Masked Readers where much harder to identify than others...

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITIONS

To celebrate the big day itself, we had not just one, not two, but six different book themed competitions. Every lesson started with a World Book Day reading activity, teachers changed their background to book themed locations, shelfies or switched their image to a book character image and there was also a Reading Scavanvger Hunt.



WORLD BOOK DAY SCAVANGER HUNT



WORLD BOOK DAY WINNERS



READING PICNICS

Who would have thought in July we'd need to worry about the weather? Well, this being England, I suppose it was somewhat predictable that at least one of our picnics would get washed out by the rain.



On Tuesday the 7th July, the rain came down and sadly the field was too wet to host our picnic out in the open. However, in true DMA style, we didn't let the rain dampen our spirits and ruin our day; we just moved it indoors. We still managed to have a fantastic Year 7 picnic in the halls complete with picnic blankets and plenty of sweet treats.



READING PICNICS

Fortunately, by the time Thursday rolled around, the weather had improved and Year 8 got to enjoy their picnic in the sunshine. It was such a lovely afternoon and even the most reluctant readers enjoyed themselves with a book and a breath of fresh air.



Everyone got stuck into a good book, including the teachers. It was such a great success that we're planning on doing it again in September for our new Year 7 intake.

AUTHOR QUICK CROSSWORD



CONTRIBUTORS:

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this magazine actually happen. In particular, our Reading Ambassadors: Florence, Ben, Caitlin, Violet, Noah and Joe. Contributions from Scott Lipscombe and Mrs Macullum. Special mention to Mrs O'Keeffe and the English department for their support and encouragement. We hope that you have enjoyed flicking through our eagerly anticipated second issue of DMAgazine and that we have inspired you to read something new or write a review of a book you have enjoyed.

Written and edited by staff and students, the magazine is a real labour of love by our passionate team of volunteers, but inevitably we do incur some running costs. We aim to continue publishing this magazine on a termly basis but we really need the support of local businesses to help cover costs and raise money for literacy intervention in school.

So, if you or someone you know would be willing to support our little publication as a charitable donation, please contact our editor, Mrs Macullum, by email at <u>a.macullum@downhammarketacademy.co.uk</u> to find out about how you can donate, become one of our regular sponsors or to place an advertisement.

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