

DM Magazine



Issue 4: January—July 2022



**Downham
Market
Academy** / Aspire
Ambition
Achieve

Summer Issue

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MRS MACULLUM'S WELCOME

Welcome to another edition of our library magazine. This half of the year has seen the library packed with students and events. We've had blind dates with a book for Valentines day and a whole week of events for World Book Day. Our reading ambassadors have been hard at work improving the library and it is has never been busier!

Last term, in Year 8 English Lessons, we were reading the award winning novel *The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Tme* by Mark Haddon.

Students have been encouraged to buy their own copy of the book or to borrow one from the library, so we've had plenty of copies in stock and unsurprisingly this was the most checked out book this half term. We are also very grateful for those students who donated their old copies to the library once they had finished it.



OUR DIGITAL LIBRARY



Our digital library was launched earlier this year using the Sora app and has proved incredibly popular. In September all profiles were updated and all staff and students now have a new account.

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.

Users can also connect their Sora profile to their Norfolk library account, giving students access to an even wider range of titles. In the last year over 1,000 users have accessed over 14,700 books and have read for over 4,000 hours on the app.

Accelerated Reader

RENAISSANCE®

How does it work? Students in Years 7 and 8 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.

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 and able to bask in their reading glory!

Our Top Quizzers this year were:

Year 7

1. Dexter M
2. Laura D
3. Imogen C

Year 8

1. Violet L
2. Jessica S
3. Kieron W



LIBRARY EVENTS



This year we have seen a number of library events. In February, to recognise Valentine's Day we ran a blind date with a book promotion to encourage reader to try a new genre or author. March saw our annual World Book Day celebrations and we also had our 'Drop Everything and Read' days. In June we had our reading picnics and a creative writing competitions.

Next year we will be continuing with our Drop Everything and read days on the 16th of every month. This date has been chosen specifically to the recognise the 16% of adults who are functionally illiterate in the UK and to try and reduce this for future generations.



BLIND DATE!

February is the month of love and although St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270, he is remembered as the patron saint of lovers.

Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death.

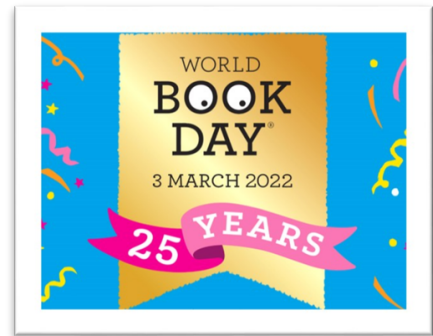
There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".

To celebrate, we introduced a blind date with a book. Without judging a book by its cover and just taking the plunge, students selected a book from a brief description.

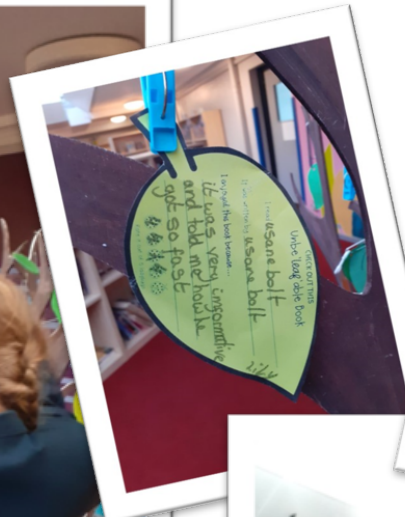


DMA BOOK WEEK

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. This year is the 25th year there's been a World Book Day.



We had a whole week of events and competitions to celebrate World Book Day this year. Monday was our biography event, where students were encouraged to 'leaf' a review of a biography that they had read on a leaf and attach it to our 'Tree of Lives'.





Our Science Fiction event used recycled materials to create our very own sci-fi gadget.

Students created light sabres, sonic screwdrivers, freeze guns and recycling machines out of the contents of Mrs Macallum's recycling bins.

Prizes were awarded for the very best creations.



For the gothic reading day, students created their own (cookie) monster. Armed with icing pens and hundreds of home baked cookies, the students got very creative.

All students were allowed to eat their creations, which perhaps explains why this was our most popular event, and prizes were awarded for the best ones.



Thursday was the official World Book Day, and to celebrate and to raise some money for charity, we had a dress as your favourite book character. Whilst many students opted for the very easy 'muggle' outfit, we did have some very impressive entries for our dressing up competition.

Even some of the teachers got into the spirit of things by dressing up and helping to judge. Lots of prizes were awarded for these fantastic costumes.



READING AMBASSADORS



Our brilliant team of Reading Ambassadors have been beavering away behind the scene this year.

As well as helping out with the library at lunchtimes and assisting in the various World Book Day events they have also been taking part in a working group after school.

In February and July, a small group of volunteers from our reading ambassadors stayed late to re-sticker the books to make selecting books from your ZPD easier. On both nights students worked really hard and were rewarded with pizza for their sterling efforts.



READING PICNICS



As part of our Celebration of English week we organised three reading picnics. For the Year 9 picnic on the Monday, we were incredibly lucky to have a visit from a Norfolk based author, Molly Morris. Molly explained how she started writing stories about her class mates at a young age, and was encouraged by her English teacher, even though the teacher always ended up getting killed in some dramatic way at the end of her tales. She also answered some questions and kindly spent some time discussing books with a small group of students. Her new book, *This is Not the End*, is described as 'part road-trip drama, part comedy and part romance' and is available to borrow now in our library.



READING PICNICS

Year 8 had their picnic on a lovely sunny Thursday and were privileged to be joined by staff from our local bookshop, The No8 Bookshop. In support of our local community, we have donated some old books that we no longer needed that were clogging up our cupboards to the bookshop.

The No8 bookshop are running a creative writing competition (see below for details) and we'd love to see someone from our brilliant school win and get published!



Ever dreamed
of becoming an
author?

No8

500 words competition

We are excited to announce our very own 500 word competition!
Open to ages 8 to 13 years

This year West Norfolk Deaf Association celebrate a wonderful 25 years so the theme for the story is "silver"
You can be as creative as you wish with this theme!
The competition entries will be read and judged by author
Daisy Line

The winner's story will also be edited by Daisy and illustrated and published

This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone with a passion for reading and a dream of becoming an author!
Closing date Friday 2nd September

No8 The Old Bookshop
8 High Street, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9DB, 01366 387874

READING PICNICS



To round off our week of celebrations, Year 7 really enjoyed their picnic on the Friday. Thankfully, the good weather held and it was very nice sitting out under the trees, eating biscuits and reading our books.

Thank you to everyone who took part, especially the teachers who helped to supervise and our guests.

PUZZLE CORNER

WORLD BOOK DAY AUTHORS 2022



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CONTRIBUTORS:

Thanks to everyone who helped to produce this issue. In particular, our Reading Ambassadors, all our creative contributors and Mrs Macallum. Special mention to Mrs O’Keeffe and the English department for their support and encouragement.

WANTED

We hope that you have enjoyed flicking through our eagerly anticipated fourth issue of DMAgazine and that we have inspired you to read something new or to 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 us to find out about how you can donate, become one of our regular sponsors or to place an advertisement.

