ENGLISH SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LIBRARY

2026 is the national 'Year of Reading', and with this in mind, our school library underwent a transformation over the summer months. Students returned to school in September to be greeted by a library boasting soft seating, dimmable lights, brand new furniture and large screens for important information to be displayed. The driving force behind such a large project was Mrs Gomersall, our Librarian and Literacy Lead. Her passion for fostering a love of reading in young minds is unfailing and the new improved setup has proved a massive success, with students (and staff!) filling the space every lunchtime for a variety of activities, ranging from book clubs, to crocheting, to 'Cozy Friday'!

This week saw the official opening of the Library, with the opening ceremony including a blessing from Fr Gubbins. The CEO of St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy Trust, Mrs McEvoy, was in attendance, alongside governors, representation from the National Literacy Trust and Scarborough Museums Learning Team. As a school, we are promoting reading on all fronts, starting in Registration with Form Tutors and embedded 'Guided Reading' across the entire curriculum. We are extremely proud of how our new Library acts as a beacon for such a crucial life skill.

SPARX READER ACHIEVEMENTS

After a successful trial in the Summer Term, we are pleased to have signed up to Sparx Reader full time. Students in Years 7-10 are set Sparx Reader homework every week, due in on Mondays, and last week, our homework completion percentage placed us in the top 20% of Sparx school nationally! This is an amazing achievement- well done everyone! If your child needs any support in completing Sparx Reader, please contact their English teacher or Mr Sweetman, our Head of English. We all recognise how reading consistently can unlock so many doors in life, and we want to support all our young readers to maintain their superb start to this aspect of school life.

Our top Sparx Readers in each year group are:

Year 7- Arine J 6,826 Sparx points
Year 8- Divine O 6, 814 Sparx points
Year 9- Haneen H 6, 117 Sparx points
Year 10- Marwa B 24,688 Sparx points



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

As we approach the end of the half term, the English Department are delighted with how well our students have tackled a vast range of genres, applied analytical skills to key extracts and displayed a keen enthusiasm for creative writing!

Key Stage 3

Year 7 have been looking into Myths and Legends, ranging from the story of King Midas to the adventurous nature of Icarus. Meanwhile, Year 8's understanding of Dystopian Fiction has been strengthened by studying 'The Giver'. In Year 9, students have been exploring this half term's Catholic Social Teaching strand of 'Dignity of the Human Person' through their deep dive into the characters of Crooks and Lennie in 'Of Mice and Men'.

Key Stage 4

Year 10 have made a positive start to their GCSE course with their analysis of responsibility in 'An Inspector Calls'. Year 11 have enjoyed getting to grips with William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. Well done to both year groups for their attitude to learning such challenging texts.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week, all year groups will complete their Interim Formative assessments via Google Forms, ensuring that key knowledge from this half term is not forgotten.

After Christmas, there will be the opportunity for Year 11 to visit York to watch a performance of 'Macbeth' and for Year 9 to travel to Hull to take in a 'Romeo and Juliet' production. Further information will follow in due course.

Sparx Club takes place every Friday at lunchtime in A6, offering students an opportunity to complete their Sparx Reader, Science or Maths tasks.

Year 11 revision sessions take place on Wednesdays. Students should see their English teacher for more details.