

# Literacy Newsletter: April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break.

Last half-term was an incredibly busy one for literacy! As outlined in my sections in Mr. Wright's weekly letters to you, we had a visit from author Sam Scott for year 8 and from N. J. Simmonds for year 9, as well as a writing skills workshop for a select group.

We also celebrated World Book Day with a form time quiz, which was won by 10KBo, we spent lunch times talking about books and reading and we created videos which we shared with pupils about our favourite books and our current reads.

90 year 10 pupils also took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshop in March, which was an amazing day. Isobel H then won our in-house school final on the 29<sup>th</sup> March. This week, on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, Isobel competed in the regional final against other local schools and achieved first place – we are extremely proud of her! I will keep you informed of how she progresses through the next rounds.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can help with anything literacy or oracy based:  
[vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)



## Book recommendations

For KS3, I would like to recommend: **House of a Hundred Doors by Sam Scott**. This one is rated as suitable for ages 12+ as it is a young adult thriller. The story takes place in an asylum where a company host a televised game show. It is an intriguing read from start to finish and I really enjoyed it – especially a plot twist I was not expecting!

For KS4, I would like to recommend: **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**. This book is fast paced and engaging, set in a dystopian future in North America, there is a yearly competition between youngsters where only one can survive. The book is also part of a trilogy so if you enjoy this one, the story continues...

For parents, I would like to recommend: **Me Before You by Jojo Moyes**. This book had been on my to read list for ages and I finally read it during the holidays. Literally a book I could not put down...I absolutely loved it and would thoroughly recommend it. The book is the story of a quadriplegic and a lady who becomes his carer – a truly emotional read!

*I would love to hear from any pupil or parent who reads one of my recommended books!*

## News and Events

### Upcoming events and information:

#### **Drop Everything and Read**

DEAR time will continue this half-term for years **7, 8 and 9**, who will all read for 20 minutes in the lessons listed below:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Period 4  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Period 5  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Period 2  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Period 3  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Period 4

Please note that due to bank holidays and the proposed teacher strikes, the days and lessons for DEAR time are a little different to usual.

#### **Pop up book shop**

Our pop up bookshop Bookworm's Boutique will be available at year 9 parents' evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a range of books for you to order and purchase.

#### **Public Speaking competition**

Our public speaking group have been working on their presentations and their speaking skills. This half-term, they are competing against each other in our in-school public speaking competition, which will take place before the half-term holiday.

**We are hoping to have some other events taking place – more details will follow in the weekly emails from Mr. Wright.**

## How can we encourage our children to read?

Make it a routine! Create a time of the day which is dedicated to reading – even if it is just 10 minutes of calm reading before sleep, it all helps our children to become readers for life.