

The King's School LRC - Book Loans

Library use and book lending continues to flourish at Kings! In 2017, the Autumn term had double the amount of book issues on the previous year, and the LRC and literacy team have done it again, as the tables below show. In comparison to this time last year, the number of books being borrowed has more than doubled once again - in particular for the Year 8 group of readers.

We are delighted with our progress so far, and hope that numbers continue to rise!

	September/October 2017			September/October 2018		
	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Total	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Total
Year Group 7	28	226	254	34	414	448
Year Group 8	14	77	91	50	522	572
Year Group 9	17	121	138	7	45	52
Year Group 10	5	67	72	23	96	119
Year Group 11	0	8	8	8	21	29
Totals	64	499	563	122	1098	1220

'Autumn Poem' by Honorata Jachymiak

Autumn; the season between Summer and Winter,
 Mother Nature's third child, the second sister.
 She's a peculiar girl, very similar to her sister and brother,
 But she is definitely much less of a bother.

Her auburn, orange hair falls like the leaves she finds so delightful,
 Flowing like waves, you will never see it dull.
 Most times it shields her amber eyes like a solid fortress,
 Away from the people that scowl at the controversial Autumn mess.

To all the hate, she never pays attention,
 And instead dances freely, ignoring them.
 She doesn't notice her fellow branches mimicking her,
 Whirling in the wind like a small fox's fur.

A glorious myriad of notes escapes her lips as she begins to sing,
 Not as melodious as the chirps of her brother, Spring.
 Yet, still soft, soothing and completely calm,
 Like her favourite hot chocolate drink, and it's relaxing charm.

An impeccable fashion sense compliments her small, petite frame,
 With a turtle neck sweater clinging to her physique bringing her fame.
 Flawlessly, her skirt shines, masking her thick cosy tights,
 Her shoes are comfy yet practical as she jumps to glorious heights.

Squirrels love to play in her hair, hedgehogs prance around her feet,
 And a fox steals her fruit and pumpkins, he does it pretty sleek.
 A wondrous deer guides her through the joyous forests,
 Where she finally lays her head, and now, Autumn rests.



Literacy Poem Competition

To celebrate National Poetry Day on the 4th of October, the library hosted an Autumn-themed poetry competition. Miss Draper chose the winning entries, who read their poems aloud in a presentation by the Head of School. Prizes included gift vouchers and certificates, with book and stationery prize bundles being given to a number of runners-up.

There were a number of fantastic entries, which are on display in the LRC, for any students who wish to come and read a few!

Well done to everyone who entered and to the three winners!



'Autumn' by Luke Berry

Conkers falling all around,
Walk outside, not a sound.

Only the rabbits jumping,
Jumping in joy as the brown leaves fall,
Like the soldiers did in the World War,
As Remembrance Day is on the 11th of November,
This Autumn will be a time to remember.

The colours seen are red and brown,
Everyone's excited for Santa to come to town.

A warm coat will be needed,
As we remember Guy Fawkes who committed treason.
And on Bonfire Night you better hug tight,
As the fireworks light and fly into the sky.



'Autumn Poem' by Lily Toon

As the trees blew,
The freshly cut leaves flew.
As in came the darker nights,
The children got prepared for their Halloween frights

TRICK OR TREAT!

As November turned, the warm fire burned.

With memories of Guy,
Colourful fireworks shot in the sky

CRACKLE AND WHOOSH!

Daytime sun, orange and yellow
Autumn colours - oh so mellow.

Plans ahead for Old Saint Nick,
The Autumn leaves fly by so quick.



Who wants to be a millionaire?

I do!

This was the question posed to students in years 7 and 8 in September, when The King's School began using Accelerated Reader. This computer based reading package encourages students to read regularly and often, by incorporating fun quizzes in to the reading process.

As GCSE examination papers are written for an average reading age of fifteen years, it is vital that students are encouraged and motivated to read in a way that increases their vocabulary knowledge, and their reading comprehension skills.

Initially, all KS3 students sit a Star Reader assessment, which tells them which ability range of books they should be reading. Students begin reading at the lower end of this range in order to increase their enjoyment of reading, as they should be able to read most of the words on a page without having to de-code them first. It also allows them to better understand what they are reading, rather than merely reading the words. Once a book has been read, students then take a quiz on the computer, aiming for 85% accuracy; they are delighted if they achieve 100% as they receive an e-praise sticker.

The sophisticated software programme also logs how many points have been earned from each book quiz, as well as how many words have been read. The literacy team work with each group of students, giving weekly feedback and updates of progress towards targets. Over the past few weeks, students have been having weekly Accelerated Reader lessons, where they can choose books from the school library, and then take quizzes on the computer once they are read.

The school has also introduced a weekly Drop Everything And Read session, which provides a quality quiet time for everyone (students and teachers) in school to read for 30 minutes each week. This, combined with five homework sessions of reading for twenty minutes each day, means that students are eating-up books with an insatiable appetite rarely seen before (as reflected in the year 7 and 8 figures above). Consequently, students have begun to achieve their first round of targets that have been set. Parents will receive a text message informing them when their child has achieved their target, as well as a recognition postcard. There is also a Home Connect facility which enables parents and students to view their progress from their home computer.

We are delighted with the students' response, and are especially pleased to announce our first two 'word millionaires'. Brogan M has read and banked 1 066 702 words, and Duncan H has read and banked 1 069 355 words! Keep it up!



Reading Awards

Students in all years have been achieving certificates over the last few weeks, since starting their exciting new journey on the Accelerated Reader programme.

Ready Reader - 1 student



Independent Reader - 0 students

Rising Reader - 5 students



Super Reader - 24 students

Advanced Reader (various levels) - 29 students

Star Reader - 17 students



Classic Reader (various levels) - 5 students

Honours Reader - 0 students



Student Librarian

By Lucy Farrar

Recently, I have been given the privilege of becoming a student librarian. This is where you are selected to come to the LRC on a Thursday form time, and help out with the other library staff. As far as I am aware, two year sevens were chosen out of the many that entered.

We help out with all kinds of different jobs; from putting books in the right place, to helping people find their next one. Miss Draper gives us guidance where required and tells us what we need to do.

It feels extraordinary that I have been given such an amazing opportunity so early on in my high school life. I also really enjoy helping people in the LRD as it is one of my favourite places in school.



I feel very privileged and proud to have been selected for such an amazing job and the fact that I am helping my school.



Drop
Everything
And
Read

Research has repeatedly proven the link between sustained daily reading and improved academic performance and wellbeing.

Once a week there is a timetabled slot for DEAR for all Years 7-10. At this time, everyone reads for 30 minutes (always the second half of the lesson).

DEAR includes staff as well as students.

All students should have a reading book with them EVERYDAY as part of their equipment.

