



Parental Literacy Newsletter

Ongoing Challenges

Remember to encourage your students to take part in: Reading Partnership Program, The 40 Book Challenge, Seasonal reading challenges/to read any recommendations made by teachers, The literacy and numeracy challenges within mentor time and building their vocabulary. In lessons students should be looking at lots of Tier 2 vocabulary, you could ask your students what words they have learnt over the term.

Accelerated Reader Achievements

Students are settling in nicely to their accelerated reader lessons. By now your student should know their ZPD score and can search for appropriate book choices on the library (access via school website):

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/>

Students will need to login via SSO (school email and password) and can do a visual search once on the library webpage to see relevant texts.

Literacy Clubs To Join

There are several KS3 clubs that will support with literacy, such as: The drama club, the book club and the creative writing club (taking place after half-term).

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE *Reading Partnership Program*

On the following slides there will be three books recommended by each department in school.

New Challenge

How many books can you read with/read to your child?

All of these books could be valuable contributions to the 40 Book Challenge! As soon as your child has read 40 books remember to email: elimperato@highdown.reading.sch.uk for a chance to win a prize at the end of the year.



English

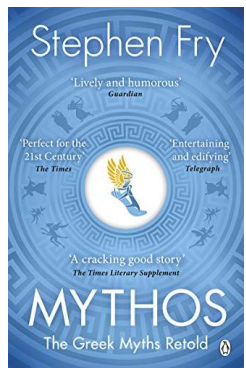
Maths

Science

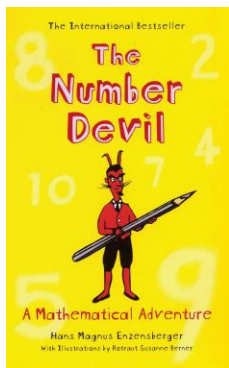
History

Geography

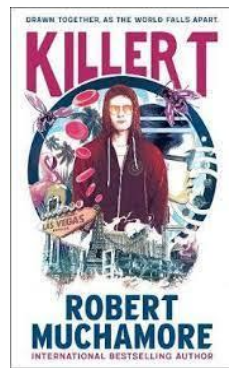
Religious Studies



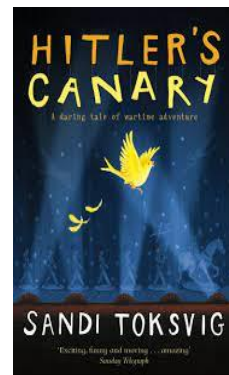
'Mythos' by Stephen Fry



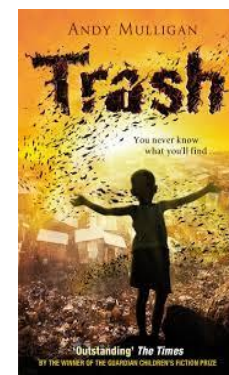
'The Number Devil' by Hans Magnus Enzensberger



Killer T by Robert Muchamore



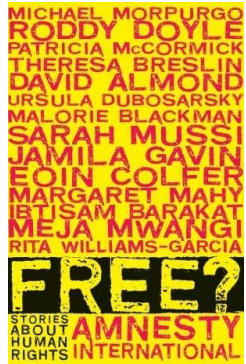
Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig



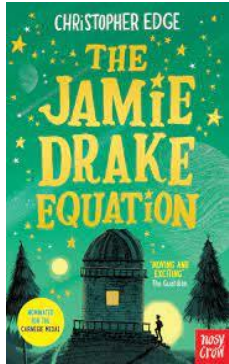
Trash by Andy Mulligan



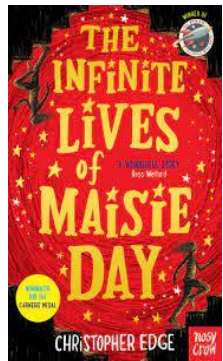
We Come Apart by Brian Conaghan and Sarah Crossan



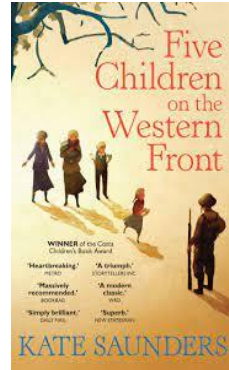
'Free? Stories About Human Rights' by Various Authors



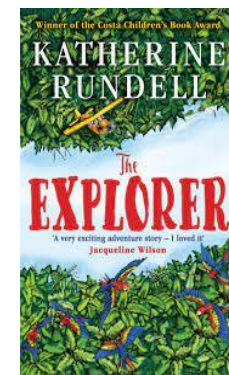
The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge



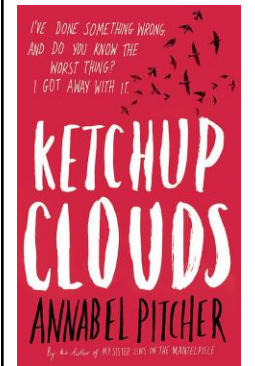
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge



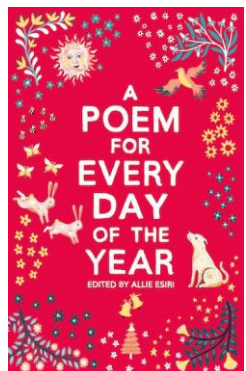
Five Children on the western front by Kate Saunders



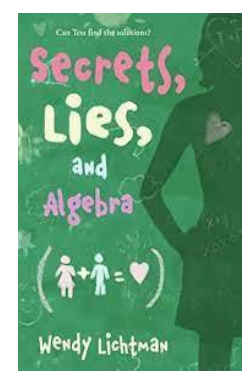
The Explorer by Katherine Rundell



Ketchup Clouds by Annabel Pitcher



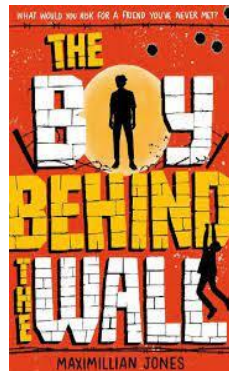
'A Poem For Every Day Of The Year' by Allie Esir



Secrets, Lies and Algebra by Wendy Lichtman



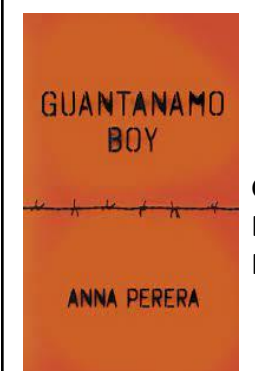
Forever Ends on Friday by Justin A. Reynolds



The Boy Behind The Wall by Maximilian Jones



The Supreme Lie by Geraldine McCaughrean



Guantanamo Boy by Anna Perera

Drama

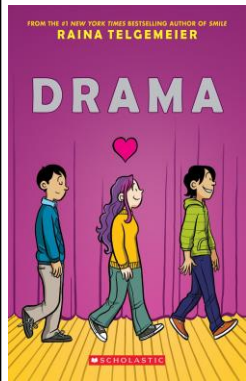
Music

PE

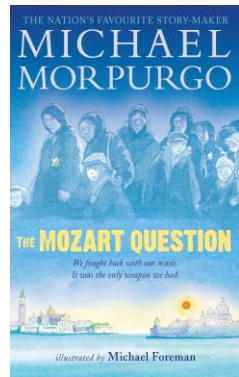
D&T

Art

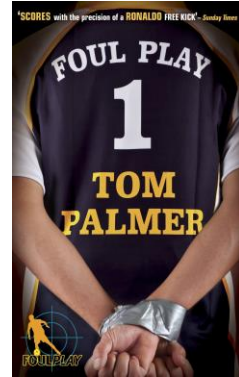
Modern Foreign Languages



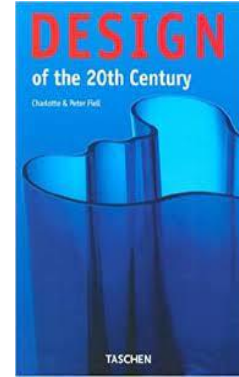
Drama by Raina Telgemeier



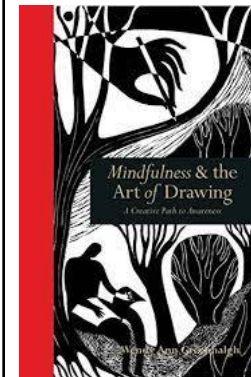
The Mozart Question by Michael Morpurgo



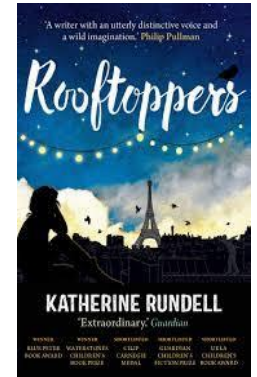
Foul Play by Tom Palmer



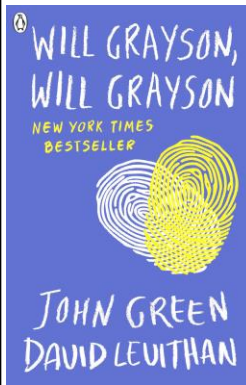
Design of the 20th Century by Charlotte Fiell



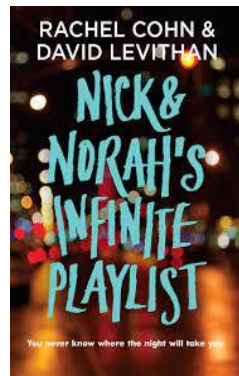
Mindfulness & the Art of Drawing: A Creative Path to Awareness by Wendy Ann Greenhalgh



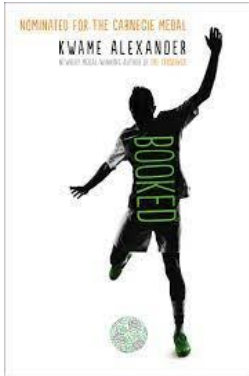
French – Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell



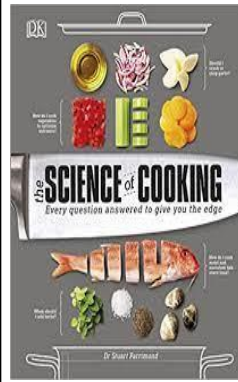
Will Grayson, Will Grayson by David Levithan and John Green



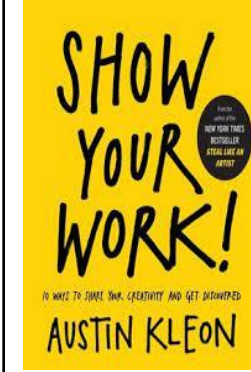
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by David Levithan and Rachel Cohn



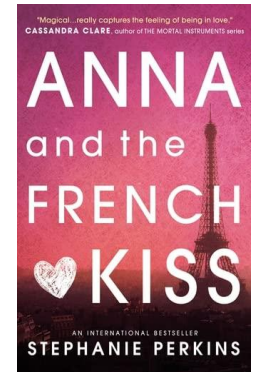
Booked by Kwame Alexander



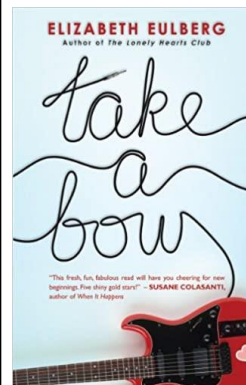
The Science of Cooking: Every Question Answered to Perfect your Cooking by Dr. Stuart Farrimond



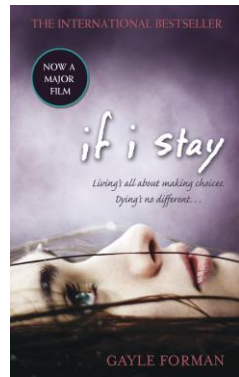
Show Your Work - Austin Kleon



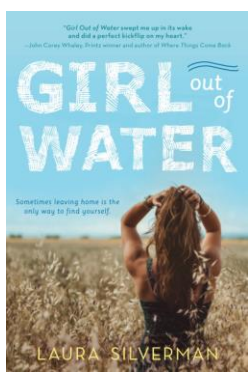
French – Anna and the French Kiss by Stephanie Perkins



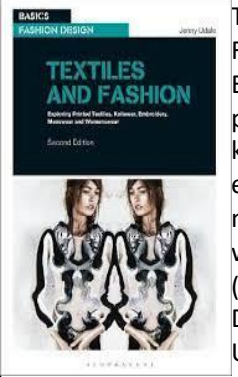
Take A Bow by Elizabeth Eulberg



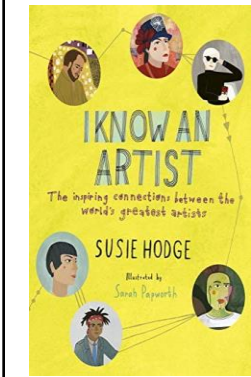
If I Stay by Gayle Forman



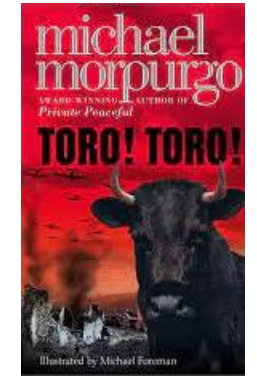
Girl Out Of Water by Laura Silverman



Textiles and Fashion: Exploring printed textiles, knitwear, embroidery, menswear and womenswear (Basics Fashion Design) by Jenny Udale



I Know an Artist: The inspiring connections between the world's greatest artists - Susie Hodge



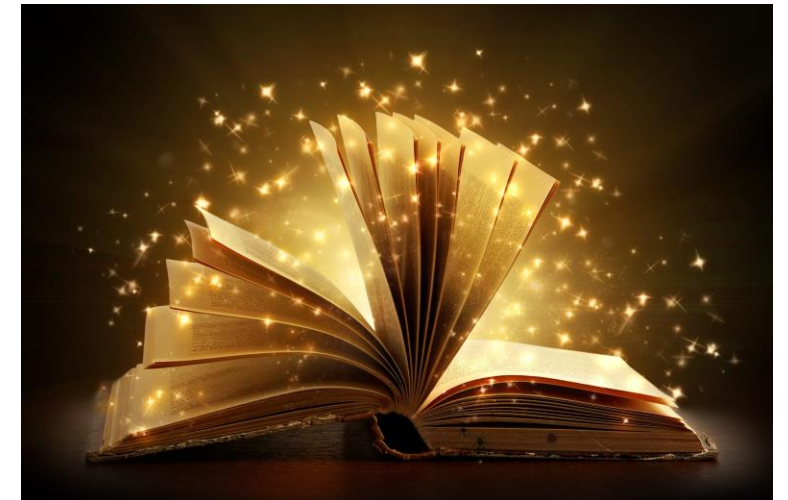
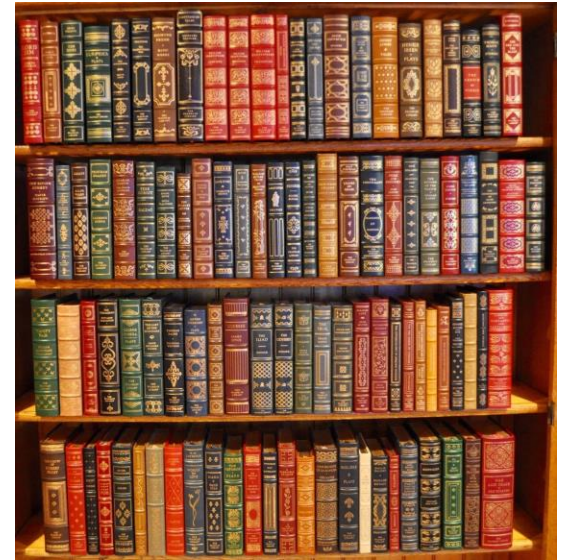
Spanish – Toro! Toro! Michael Morpurgo

Mentor Time Books

In mentor time your child should be being read to by their mentor. Here are some of the texts that are being read:

- The Book Thief
- The Northern Lights
- With The Fire On High
- The Hobbit
- The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas
- Wonder
- In The Sea There Are Crocodiles
- Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe
- Troy
- Norse Mythology

It could be a lovely idea to read along with your child and have discussions about the plot, the characters and the big ideas within these texts.



40 Book Challenge

Try to read 40 books within the academic year!

Why should we encourage children to read?

Reading expands your vocabulary, boosts your creativity, improves your writing skills, enhances your memory and more!

Is there some sort of incentive?

Yes! Once your child has read 40 books they will be entered into a raffle where there will be prizes to be won. For each additional five books a student reads their name can be entered again.

When will this happen?

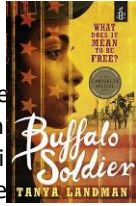
- If your child is in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9 they have accelerated reader lessons where you have plenty of time to read and occasionally deliver presentations on your books.
- In English lessons and in mentor time students will have time to read.
- Students can also read books at home to get ahead of people and complete the challenge!

Not sure what to read? Try our recommendations on the next slides...



Fiction

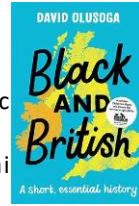
Buffalo Soldier (13+) Tanya Landman



Plantation slave Charley Smith is eleven when America blows itself apart, with Abraham Lincoln's decision to prohibit slavery. Charley thinks a slice of heaven her way. But it's a taste of hell.

Non-fiction

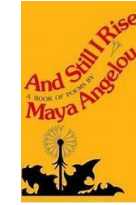
Black and British (13+) David Olusoga



David Olusoga's latest edition of Black and British has been rewritten for secondary school children and explains and illustrates the much overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain.

Poetry

Still I Rise (11+) Maya Angelou



*You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.*

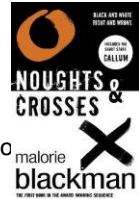
Popular Culture

Musical Hamilton Lin-Manuel Miranda



"Hamilton" remains a story of revolution — a triumphant and tragic one told passionately by performers. Hamilton is now back on the West End.

Noughts and Crosses (12+) Malorie Blackman



In Malorie Blackman's groundbreaking novel, the population is divided into two: the white Noughts are second-class citizens, and the black Crosses are highly-revered and perceived as the superior race.

This Book is Anti-Racist (10+) Tiffany Jewell



Often using personal anecdotes about her own schooling, family and experiences as a young mixed race girl, Jewell's fascinating, friendly and hugely popular guide is essential reading for kids.

A Change Is Gonna Come (12+)



Featuring poems and stories from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors — including four previously unpublished writers — this absorbing book offers refreshing perspectives.

BBC Adaptation Noughts and Crosses

The series is set in an alternative history where black "Cross" people rule over white "Noughts". The first episode aired on BBC One on 5 March 2020, and the remaining episodes premiered on BBC iPlayer on the same day. In May 2021, the BBC announced that a second series had been commissioned.

The Hate U Give (12+) Angie Thomas



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The balance between these two worlds are shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her friend.

The Extraordinary Lives Series (10+)



Published by Penguin this series explores the extraordinary lives of many influential people such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, Mary Seacole, Katherine Johnson and more.

6 Powerful Poems

<https://www.commonlit.org/blog/6-powerful-poems-by-black-authors-5c776689d17b/>

Here is a set of meaningful poems from well-known Black authors for children. These thematically rich poems about overcoming obstacles, finding beauty in the world, and celebrating strength are sure to engage your readers!

The Black Curriculum Podcast



Available on Spotify this podcast explores Black British history. There are discussions on sound system culture and the British bus boycott.

How High The Moon (14+) Karyn Parsons



To Kill a Mockingbird meets One Crazy Summer in this powerful, bittersweet debut about one girl's journey to reconnect with her mother and learn the truth about her father.

Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies (9+)



The lives and achievements of leading lights as diverse as Stormzy, basketball star LeBron James, poet and novelist Maya Angelou are chronicled in this excellent book.

Listen Up: These Young Black Poets Have A Message

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/09/arts/yOUNG-black-poets.html>

The 10 young Black writers in this project — talented poets from Oakland, Houston, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Nashville, New Orleans and Los Angeles — are using the tools at their disposal, whatever they have.

Painting Our Past

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/painting-our-past/>

English Heritage has commissioned a series of portraits depicting six historic figures from the African diaspora whose stories have contributed to England's rich history. Each artist has been supported by their curators and historians.