

Frederick Gough School



READING NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024

Reading is at the heart of your child's experience at Frederick Gough and, as the Education Endowment Foundation states, "Reading is unique - there is nothing else that's able to change outcomes for the better on the same level as reading".

Our aim is to ensure that your child encounters a variety of opportunities to not only improve their skills of reading but to experience a rich reading environment within school leading to a love of reading for life.

Reading has the ability to enhance a student's success academically but also is proven to help with mental health and well being.

What can I do to support my child?

- Sharing your experiences about why reading is important for life and work, whilst being mindful not to add to any negative feelings, can help children to see that everyone struggles with certain things but it's worth persevering.
- Avoid reading being seen as a chore through requests such as 'if you read for 15 minutes, you can...'. Whilst this may work for some young people, it is unlikely to lead to reading being seen as an enjoyable activity.
- Research by the National Literacy Trust showed that reading for pleasure increased during the 2020-2021 lockdowns; one of the reasons young people gave for this was having the time to read and having fewer distractions. This would suggest that helping your child to balance their time and factor reading into their schedule in a quiet environment would be beneficial.
- Help your child to be proactive in their wider reading. For example, if they are covering World War II, explore age-appropriate texts on this through poetry, online articles or novels.
- Take an interest in what they're reading and studying at school by reading around topics as well so that you can engage in discussion about their texts/areas of learning, whilst modelling an interest in reading.
- Help your child to experience feeling successful with reading. Praise and encourage them, whilst showing interest in what they've read.



*"Reading is like joy: you can
exist without it, but why would
you want to?"*

MARCUS SEDGWICK

Read Aloud

Read Aloud is our tutor reading programme which all year groups are taking part in.

Reading aloud has been proven to make a huge difference to a student's ability to read fluently and accurately. It models reading with expression and helps to improve the ability to decode and recognise words on sight. We also highlight key vocabulary within the chapter to help our students expand their word knowledge and their understanding of the etymology of words. In our programme, a member of staff reads one of the chosen stories on video and our students read along either using a book or using a kindle. For example, Mr Dalton is currently reading Slated by Terri Terry to Year 9 and our librarian Mrs Sanderson Eardley is reading Fightback to by Am Dassu to Year 10. We have developed a reading canon which exposes our students to a rich variety of literature ranging from Mythology to Dystopian novels and novels that cover important issues such as racism and the empowerment of women. These are the books that students are reading:-

Year 7 –

Read, Scream Repeat – A spine tingling collection of age appropriate horror stories which tell tales of spooky forests, graveyard ghosts and a cursed pond to name but a few!

African Caribbean Folktales and Myths – a collection of traditional African and Caribbean that have been told for hundred of years.

Year 8 –

Michael Morpurgo's War Stories – From World War II to the Crusades to the modern day Middle East, stories that sweep across wars throughout History.

Make More Noise – An Anthology of Stories about the Empowerment of Women.

Year 9 - Slated by Terri Terry. An dystopian novel about a girl called Kyla who's memory has been wiped and her memories have been lost for ever because she was a terrorist. But someone is lying to her.

Year 10

Fightback by Am Dassu – An empowering story about finding your identity and being prepared to fight for it.

Year 11

This term, Year 11 are reading short contemporary extracts about issues that matter in the world around them and practicing voicing their opinions on matters such as global warming, the importance of reading and other areas that affect the young people of today.

Literacy Word of the Term!

Each week in tutor time, our students learn the etymology of different words and how to use those words in different contexts. Studying the etymology allows students to make connections between words and their Latin roots and prefixes. For example, a word that begins with con- often come from the Latin contra which means against.

This term, one of our favourite words has been controversy!

Task 4: Knowledge booster

Where does the word 'controversy' come from?

The word 'controversy' comes from two Latin root words:

contra + *versus*

The root word *contra* means 'against' and the root word *versus* means 'to turn'. So the word 'controversy' means 'to turn against'. We use the word 'controversy' to say that an opinion turns against the norm.

Can you think of any other words that start with the Latin root 'contra'?

In class, students were shown a clip of Boris Johnson announcing the beginning of the Covid lockdown and footage of the Maradona 'Hand of God' goal in the World Cup! Both of these examples sparked some fabulous discussion about controversy and what it means!

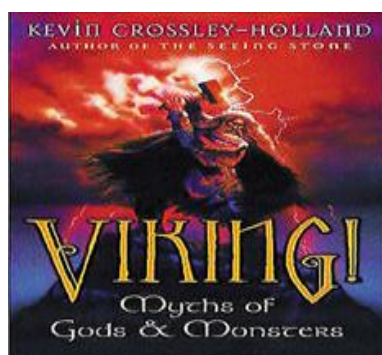
RECOMMENDED READS

You may not know but on the school website in the Reading section there are reading lists which you and your child can look at to enhance subject knowledge or read around a subject which really interests your child. In each newsletter, we bring you some suggestions of books you or your child could read associated with different subjects! There are reading lists for all subjects on the school website in the Reading Section!

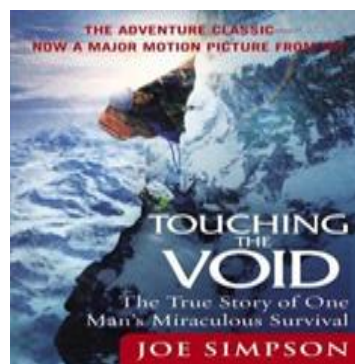
This time we are going to focus on RE.

For RE:-

KS3 - Viking by Kevin Crossley-Holland



KS4 – Touching the Void by Joe Simpson



Library Corner

Our top borrower this year is in Year 10 and has already read 62 books since September!

Next in line is a Year 9 student with 40 books and finally another Year 9 student who is on 32 loans so far and is a Manga reading machine!

Heartstopper has finally lost its crown as the most borrowed title and series.

Instead, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down has taken the number 1 slot.

7 of the top 10 borrowed books are either Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid series or Liz Pichon's Tom Gates series. They have been popular for a long time and still haven't lost their popularity.

Look out for the new Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess, coming to the library soon!

Aside from Jeff Kinney, the most popular authors include Tom and Matt Oldfield with their huge football collection, Jacqueline Wilson is as popular as ever and Scott Cawthorn with Five Nights at Freddy's.

We have recently acquired a lot of books from the Robin Stevens 'Murder Most Unladylike' series. They are already sparking a lot of interest. New books are being added to our stock all the time - come and have a browse!

If there is a book you are interested in, please speak to Mrs Sanderson Eardley in the library who will be able to help.

Thank you for reading. If you have any further queries and/or suggestions of what you would like to see in this newsletter please email ealexander@fgs.org.uk