

READING MATTERS



SUMMER TERM 2024

ISSUE 1

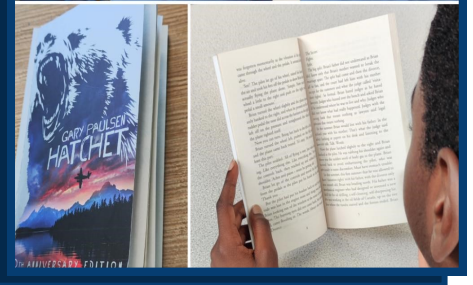
Form Time Reading

This year, the English department purchased over 600 new books and introduced them into Form Time.

Each form in Years 7-10 have designated reading books that they read collectively twice a week.

These books were chosen by the students and include a range of genres: crime, thriller, survival & humour.

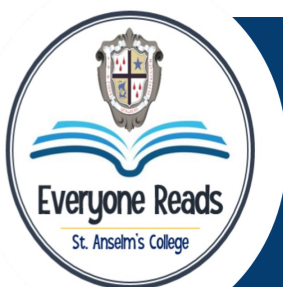
Books are swapped on a carousel once completed.



Sixth Form Reading Ambassadors

A group of English Language and Literature Sixth Form students have volunteered their time this year to mentor Year 7 students, helping them develop their reading skills.

With the added bribe of breakfast treats, the 'buddies' have enjoyed reading John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* together during Monday registrations in the Library.



Reading Mission Statement

At St. Anselm's College, we prioritise both ambitious academic **reading**, as well as **reading** for pleasure.

We recognise the powerful impact **reading** has on student wellbeing, as well as its enriching effect on academic achievement.

To this end, **reading** is embedded into school life so that our students are given every opportunity to develop a passion and curiosity for the written word.

English – *Beyond the Classroom*



The English department has been on its travels this year.

In January, GCSE students enjoyed a 'Poetry Live' performance, including guest speakers Simon Armitage and John Agard, at the Manchester Opera House.

In March, we travelled down to Stratford-Upon-Avon - the birthplace of William Shakespeare - for two theatrical performances with Years 7&8.



Also in March, we welcomed 'Initiate Theatre' to the College stage for an interactive performance of *Macbeth* to our Year 10 & 11s.



Author Visit

We are excited to welcome author Matt Oldfield to the College next February, just in time for 'World Book Day'. Matt's *Football Heroes* books are the most popular in the College Library, and we look forward to hearing about his inspiration for becoming an author and his writing journey so far.

Summer Dates

2 May: International Harry Potter Day

9 May: GCSE exams begin



20 May: KS3 exams week

24 May: Half Term



10 June: Year 9 English Trip - Belgium

23 June: National Writing Day



28 June: Brother Kerrigan Walk

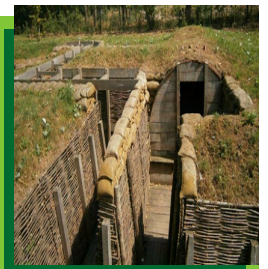
17 July: Summer holidays



9 August: National Book Lovers Day

English on Tour!

The English & History Departments, along with a large group of intrepid Year 9s, are crossing the Channel in June for a 3-day tour of historic World War 1 sites, including museums, memorials and the trenches of Ypres and Passchendaele. The Year 9s have been studying 'Literature of War' this term, and will be tackling the 'Power and Conflict' poetry anthology next year, so this trip will be both exciting and academically enriching...especially when we visit a Belgian chocolate factory on the final day!



Bedrock: the foundations of reading at the College

All Key Stage 3 students engage in weekly homework using the online reading software *Bedrock*. Students complete a range of activities which help to develop their all-round reading skills. Achievement points and bags of personalised sweets are awarded to the weekly winners.

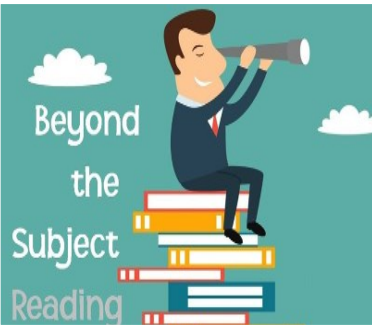


Leaderboard

Year 7: Teddy K (7E), Ben F (7E), William C (7E)

Year 8: Reuben Y (8M), Connor J (8P), Adam C (8M)

Year 9: Ajay S (9M), Noah H (9G), Dylan H (9G)



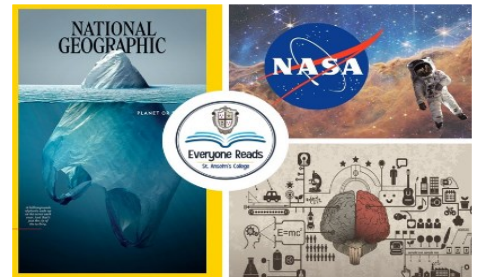
Beyond the Subject Form Time Reading

NASA, Chilean wildfires, the Israel-Palestine conflict, ultramarathons, climate change, US politics, social media and bees.

An eclectic mix, but these are just *some* of the topics explored in this year's *Beyond the Subject Form Time* reading texts.

Each week, a different Head of Department sets a reading task for students in each Key Stage, focusing on a topical issue related to their subject. These texts have been taken from a range

of publications, including: *National Geographic*, *BBC News*, *The Guardian*, *Teen Science Journal*, *The Independent* and *Financial Times*.

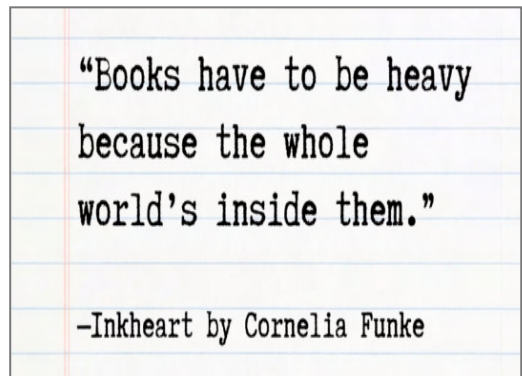


Great Reads

Keen on some summer reading, but not sure what books are best?

The College's *Great Reads* recommended reading lists are available from the Library and your English teacher for all Year 7-9 students.

These will also be emailed out this summer.



Year 7 Great Reads

Classics

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Four adventurous siblings, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, step through wardrobe doors and are whisked to a land of magic and wonder, ruled by the White Witch.

Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
The famous detective set out on the London and Great Eastern Railway with the Baker Street Irregulars, the four young boys.

Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Tom Sawyer is the mischievous boy who gets into all sorts of trouble.

Henry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling
On a rainy October night, Harry Potter finds a letter addressed to him and a wizard who has the power to help him.

Humour

Boy Soldier by Shaun Collins
Sam Taylor may only be a middle schooler, but he's already found out his dream job. Can he make it through the military boot camp? "Well, it's not a joke," he says. "It's a reality. It's not long before you're out and back without a job."

The World of Stone by Jonathan Meades
Why on earth did Thomas Hardy have to move, except to that old house he'd never visit to pass a pretty corner stone a color. And when there is a job, he's left unable to do anything but a moment.

The Prince Who Wasn't by Ben Davis
On the day that the prince was to marry, he was told that the prince was not the prince. The prince was not the prince. The prince was not the prince.

The Boy Who Walked Away Home by Helen Butler
Bibi dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian, but when her father will get in the way, she has to find a way to make it on her own. Can she find a way to make it on her own?

Science Fiction & Dystopia

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
In the year 2045, reality is not what you think it is. The only way to escape is to go into the virtual world of the OASIS. But when he discovers the secret of the OASIS, he has to find a way to survive.

The City by Lock Loney
It is the future. There is no one on the planet and no one. But when he is selected to be the first of the new, he has to find a way to survive.

Horror and Ghost Stories

The Cat by Peveret O'Grady
Imagine a world where you might disappear any minute, only to find yourself alone in a grey city, with more horror in it than you could ever wish to know about. Then you have a hint, and you know that whatever lives in the city has got your name and the best of the world.

Spain's Guide to Life on Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce
The Boyles are a big, warm, comfortable family who live on a small farm and sometimes have a little. But then they have some big news. But through the years, they have had to learn a lot of things.

Ready Player One
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The Gossamer Hawk by Neil Gaiman
After the grisly murder of his own family, a middle-aged man is granted a wish: the ghost of his own mother returns to him to help him find a way to survive.

My Sweetheart is a Singing Bird by Marcus Sedgwick
Peter doesn't understand why his father carries a long battered box everywhere they go, and why he is so afraid to open it.

George's Day by Randa Hareb
George goes to a school where she has to be a girl. It's the worst school she's ever been to. She has to be a girl. She has to be a girl. She has to be a girl.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
The monster doesn't get any bigger. As they say, he's not the monster. But he is the monster.

What Are Your Teachers Reading?



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