



NTS READING MATTERS

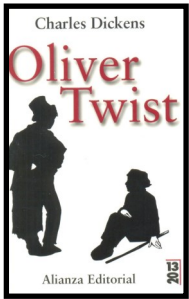
The English Department's termly newsletter dedicated to reading

Autumn Term 2023

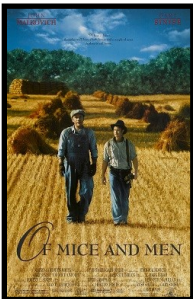
What we're reading in English lessons...

The texts pictured below represent just some of the texts we're exploring in our English lessons this term. All have been chosen because of the richness of their ideas, themes and language and the interesting conversations about society and humanity we hope they'll generate both in and out of class.

Year 7



Year 8



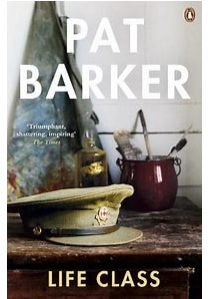
Year 9



Key Stage 4



Year 13 Lit



Reading Events this term:

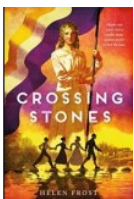
All pupils in Years 7 and 8 have again been given the opportunity to choose a book this half term via the Bookbuzz scheme, run by the Book Trust. There are 17 titles on offer this year including Jennifer Killick's "Dreadwood," "Kaye's Marvellous Medicine" by Adam Kaye and "Swan Song" by Gill Lewis. The school's involvement in the scheme means we receive 2 copies of each of the 7 titles for our school library. Pupils' choices will arrive in school and be distributed to them during autumn 2. Our thanks to Miss Morley for co-ordinating text selections, orders and the imminent distribution of choices to pupils. To view the full selection of texts on offer this year visit the [Bookbuzz website at Bookbuzz school reading programme for Year 7 and Year 8 | BookTrust](#)

Reading Recommendations:

Find below, some recommended reads which link to the themes, genres and issues we have been discussing in English lessons, linked to our core reading texts.

Key Stage 5

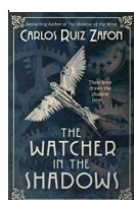
Crossing Stones—Helen Frost



Eighteen-year-old Muriel Jorgensen lives on one side of Crabapple Creek. Her family's closest friends, the Normans, live on the other. For as long as Muriel can remember, the families' lives have been connected by the crossing stones on the water. But now that Frank Norman has enlisted to fight in World War I and her brother, Ollie, has lied about his age to join him, the future is uncertain.

Key Stage 4

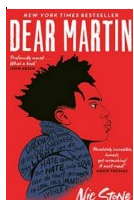
The Watcher in the Shadows– Carlos Ruiz Zafon



A mysterious toymaker who lives in an old mansion, surrounded by the mechanical beings he has created... an enigma surrounding strange lights that shine through the mists.. a shadowy creature that hides deep in the woods... that bind 14-year-old Irene to Ismael during one magical summer. . It is a place of miracles, a blissful rounds of treats and seasons, where every childhood whim may be satisfied...

Key Stage 3

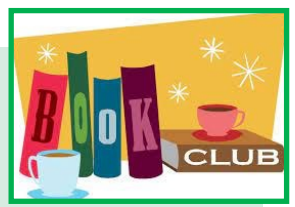
Dear Martin - Nic Stone



Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighbourhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Reading Club

Two of our sixth –formers are running our Wednesday lunchtime reading club this term; all pupils are welcome to come and discuss their current read, particular reading interests, share time and conversation with keen readers and perhaps enjoy a drink and a biscuit at the same time.



Teachers Reading

The English team are unsurprisingly, avid readers and keen to share what they are reading with their pupils. Every newsletter will put an English teacher and what they are reading in the spotlight. This term it's the turn of Mrs Walker!

Mrs Walker is reading “The Street Child” by Berlie Doherty

One of a series offering classic and contemporary fiction for schools to suit a range of ages and tastes. Set in the 1860s, this novel is based on the first Dr Barnardo boy. Penniless and alone when his mother dies, little Jim Jarvis is put in the workhouse, from which he is determined to escape.

Reading Challenge:

All pupils have been given their termly reading challenge bingo grid by their tutor in form time with the ultimate goal of reading books linked to all 9 themes and genres of book included on their bingo grid. We'd be very appreciative of any encouragement and support parents and carers might offer at home to help their child complete this. A copy of the challenge is included with this newsletter.

The Importance of Reading

See below for the DFE's ten tips to encourage your child to read for pleasure. Research shows that reading for pleasure has a strong positive impact on young people's vocabulary, spelling, attainment and all round academic success.

1. Encourage your child to read
2. Read aloud regularly
3. Encourage reading choice
4. Read together
5. Create a comfortable environment
6. Make use of your local library
7. Talk about books
8. Bring reading to life
9. Make reading active
10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

Future department plans...

We plan to hold our first Book Swap during Autumn Term 2. Pupils will be given the opportunity to bring in a book they have already read, which they do not want to keep but would like to share with another keen reader. The event will take place in the library: pupils will be encouraged to swap their book for one new to them with the added bonus of a drink and a slice of cake as they choose:

Date: Tuesday 21st November 2023

