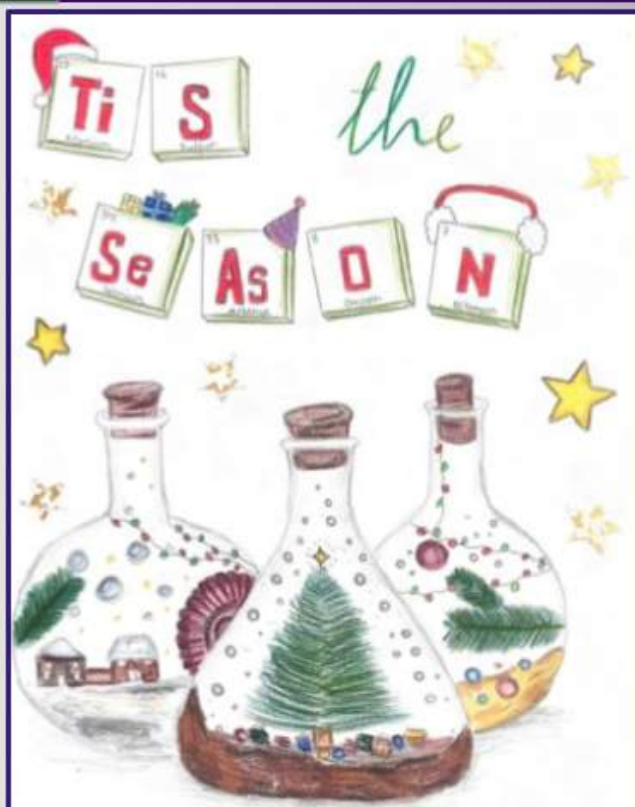




# MARDEN NEWS

December 2024 End of Term Edition



MERRY *Christmas*  
from MARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

*Featuring*

Message from  
The Headteacher

Business

English  
& Media

PE

Science

Literacy at Marden

Drama

RE

Technology



Friday 20th December 2024

Dear All

We have had a number of new students start at Marden this term and it has been good to see them settle quickly, getting into the habits and routines that help our students enjoy school and do well in their studies. Staff have been checking in regularly with students and parents, and feedback has been very positive, a little sample of which I have included here from some of our Year 7 children.

- *“... happy to have joined Marden and has enjoyed meeting new people to talk to and make friends with. He feels the building has a calm and quiet feel about it and his teachers have been nice.”*
- *“... delighted to be at Marden and feels she has settled well. She has been confident enough to quickly and actively take part in lessons and make friends.”*
- *“... said his first week has been really good. He has enjoyed his lessons, especially maths, English and history.”*
- *“... feels the school has been very welcoming and everyone has been nice to him. He has especially enjoyed PE and IT.”*
- *“... really pleased to have been offered a place at Marden High School. ... describes it as perfect, smaller and quieter than his previous school.”*

Parents and carers of Year 11 students have recently received reports for their children following the mock GCSE exams held this term. We were pleased with the attitude and manner in which the year group approached these exams and it is pleasing to see that many students have achieved good grades for this point in the year. All students will have been receiving feedback from their teachers about next steps to take in the preparation for the real exams in the summer, and it is this, as I told students in assembly this week, which is now so important for them. They must find out what they did not know or could not do, and plan out next steps for improvement. This might be a revision plan for use at home or it may be attending the revision sessions that staff are putting on at lunchtime or after school. In any case it will involve continuing to be focused and engaged in lessons and involving

themselves in conversation with their teachers about what their next steps should be. I am looking forward to seeing what the students will achieve with these great opportunities. In the meantime we will be inviting parents and carers into school to look at their children's books and mock exams on Thursday 9th January. This will be on a drop in basis between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as Mr Topping, will be available for parents to talk to in the Learning Resource Centre. There will also be a remote Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14 January, which is an opportunity for parents and carers to talk to their child's subject teachers. Appointments for this are available to book via the [schoolcloud](#) on Friday 20 December from 8.00am.

It's been good to see Year 9 fully embrace the Year 9 Guided Choices process so far this term. Students have now watched assemblies for most of the options subjects with Travel and Tourism (BTEC), Child Development (CNAT) and Engineering (CNAT) to watch on their return from the Christmas break. Students have watched these assemblies in form time, making notes on the course content, assessment style and appeal. If your child has missed any of the assemblies they can find the screencasts on the [website](#). The students have been asked to consider a wide range of subjects that they would be interested in taking. In the first week back Mrs Robson will be communicating to students and parents the blocks that they will be able to choose subjects from. The provisional choices will then be made via a google form in form time on February 14. The provisional choices are a good way for us to identify which subjects are most popular with students and for students to give us some feedback on the blocks ahead of their final choices on March 7th.

The long awaited netball challenge between Year 10 and staff took place this week, and it proved to be an excellent contest. The Year 10 girls are a famously successful team with one of the best records in the region. However, it seems that the staff team have been practising strategy - or perhaps it was the height advantage - as they squeezed a close victory from the game winning 22-17. All players enjoyed the event, and, as you would imagine, it was played in great spirit.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing all our students back on Tuesday 7 January at 8.45am for a great Spring term.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher



*Your Latest Updates from the Business Department!*

### **Year 11: Mock Exams Complete!**

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who have just completed their mock exams, tackling *GCSE Business Paper 1*. This has been a valuable opportunity to test their knowledge and exam techniques, helping them identify areas for improvement as they gear up for the final exams. Remember to reflect on your feedback when you get it and use it to shape your revision strategy moving forward!

A quick reminder: **revision guides** are an incredibly valuable resource. If you haven't already, it's *not too late* to get one! They're packed with key content, practice questions, and tips to help you succeed.

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### **Year 10: Spotting Opportunities & Making Businesses Effective**

Year 10 students have just wrapped up their work on *spotting business opportunities*. This exciting topic explored how entrepreneurs identify gaps in the market and turn ideas into reality.

We're now moving on to *how to make a business effective*. Students have been exploring the **aims and objectives of new start-ups**, which are the foundation for any successful business. Next, we'll be diving into the numbers—learning how to **calculate costs, revenue, and profit**.

**Important Reminder:** As we work on financial calculations, it's crucial that students bring a **calculator** to every lesson. This will help them practice essential mathematical skills needed for their exams.

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**Year 9: An Introduction to Business**

Year 9 students have been enjoying an introduction to GCSE Business, getting a taste of what the course is like. They've been engaging in discussions about what makes a successful business and exploring basic concepts. This early exposure is designed to help them make informed decisions as they approach their *guided choices* later in the year.

If your child is considering Business as one of their options, feel free to reach out for more information—we're here to help!

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**Top Tips for GCSE Success:**

1. **Stay organised:** Keep notes up to date and regularly review them.
2. **Use your revision guide:** It's a great tool for building confidence and understanding key concepts.
3. **Ask for help:** If you're struggling with a topic, don't hesitate to ask your teacher for support.

Let's keep the momentum going, and here's to another fantastic term in Business!

Miss D Parker



Another amazing term in Drama! We are very proud of the creative achievements of Marden High School students this term.

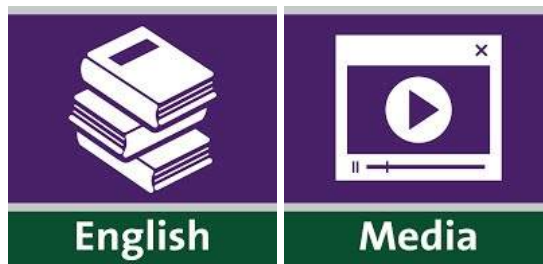
It's been a busy term for the drama curriculum with key stage 3 students enjoying learning new skills as they explore a range of topics: Year 9 have been experiencing GCSE Drama skills creating their own short play. Year 7 students have settled in well and are enjoying sharing their performance skills each lesson with their peers.

GCSE Drama students have had a productive term too, developing new techniques for devising. Mrs Berriman has also been learning and enjoyed a fabulous workshop with Kerry Frampton (Artistic Director, Splendid Productions). We then explored some of these techniques which have supported students' own devised performances. Year 11 had a great time at the theatre recently. We particularly enjoyed the inspirational 'Please Right Back' and we also loved our tour of the Royal Georgian Theatre in Richmond. Year 11 students will be embarking on their performance exam in January and we can't wait to see a showcase of high quality work.

Our Christmas Concert was a huge success and it was great to see so many talented students coming together to share their performance work. We can now confirm that our next school production will be 'Mary Poppins Jnr.' Auditions will begin in January and we're sure it will be another fantastic show with opportunities for performance, choreography and technical support. We hope to see many of you once again showing your support at the performances in July 2025!

On behalf of the Performing Arts team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Mrs S Berriman



## The Be All: An English Podcast

With our departmental podcast established across the school last year; we have started this academic year by taking a different route to build our bank of reading resources for students to access. Members of the English department have been recording our own favourite seasonal short stories for students to access either in Reading for Pleasure lessons or independently to broaden their reading habits. It is a firm belief that to be an effective writer you must be an effective reader too, so we have been encouraging students to not only listen to these stories for their own enjoyment and interest, but to also build their writing skills through exposure to challenging vocabulary, interesting descriptions and perceptive themes. Readings so far have included *The Gift* by Ray Bradbury, *The Story of the Goblins Who Stole a Sexton* by Charles Dickens and *Summer People* by Shirley Jackson. All are available on the [English Subject Cloud](#) which can be found on our website as well as individual class Google Classrooms. And let's not forget last year's particularly festive audiobook of *A Christmas Carol* (read by Mr Horn) which students have been enjoying listening to for a second year!

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## Gothic Writing

Year 7 have got their first term of Marden English off to a superb, but spooky start by exploring the key theme of 'Gothic' through the central texts *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill and *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan. As part of this unit, the students aren't just exploring these texts critically, but are also taking inspiration from these for their own eerie and exciting Gothic tales showing off their excellent creative talents. This will culminate in our annual Gothic writing competition whereby our top stories will be published in our very own Marden High School *Gothic Tales* collection, with the theme for 2024/25 being 'A Dark Christmas'. We can already tell we will have a challenging job on our hands choosing our winners this year! Here are some extracts from this year's entries:

*Tick! Tock! Tick! Tock* echoed around the ancient, dull mansion striking through the heart of the only man who lived in solitude there. The walls were a moss green through the built up mould of uncared for problems over the years of sullen he had lived in. Charlie Thomas lived in isolation in his titanic, snow-covered home. The bare, paper white trees whistled with the vigorous wind of the 24th December. Hail bounced furiously against the prehistoric, unstable windows like a murderer banging on the door to get in. He stood up tediously and watched over the plain, bleak for miles fields with great intent. The only illumination in the thick night sky was a green tree wrapped in multicoloured lights with a star on top; a sight that didn't quite enlighten his day. Beneath it were scarlet coloured presents as a family sat and sang in euphoria around the spitting fire. He turned away with no time to linger and listen to the utter clangour. The joy enraged him inside. He was not optimistic at Christmas time. In fact he despises it and has done so for years now.

**Frankie**

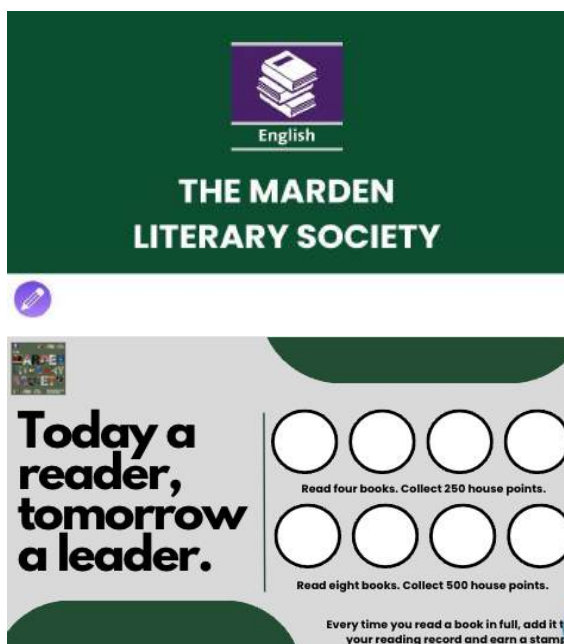
*It was quiet, for the first time in the dingy, insignificant village of which I had the misfortune to live in, quiet. I savoured the words on my tongue, quiet. The smell of pine filled my small room, if you could call a space the size of a storage cupboard a room. Nevertheless, it was what I had to call my room. I peered out the window and gasped, the night sky was of a deep black, almost as if a cluster of diamonds had been thrown in the sky. A hint of a smile played on my lips and faded as quickly as it had come. Suddenly, there was no darkness, I was trapped in a pool of light coming from my door which was now open, and peering at me through the frame was my half sister Alyssa.*

**Ava**

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## Marden Literary Society

One of our key departmental priorities this year is encouraging literacy and challenge through literary texts, and therefore we have created and introduced: The Marden Literary Society! In their fortnightly Reading for Pleasure lessons KS3 students have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their own reading habits, as well as spending time completing a range of engaging and creative tasks built around the importance of reading. Newly introduced for 2024/25, each student has been given a reading card to collect stamps each time they have completed a book and discussed their reading with their teacher. Once students have collected four stamps they will receive 250 house points and after eight stamps they will be rewarded with 500 house points! Students have made a superb start to this new initiative and it has been brilliant for the department to see such a buzz around reading! Remember, students can find book recommendations and reading lists on the *Literacy Subject Cloud* available on our website, or can ask their English teacher for further assistance.



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## Getting Creative

Some of our Year 9 classes have been studying the excellent novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro which has led to perceptive consideration of themes and topics such as dystopian fiction, wider school life and even cloning. A large part of this novel surrounds a school in which students take part in an 'Exchange' whereby they create a piece of work and fellow classmates are given 'tokens' to purchase other student work and build their own collection of personal items. Inspired by this part of the novel, as homework students studying this text decided to host their own 'Exchange' and create something to show off and bring this section of the book to life! Students were incredibly thoughtful and creative bringing in a wide range of items from cakes, artwork and even a crocheted bag! Here are some examples of the brilliant work produced:





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**Here is what your English & media teachers have on their Winter Reading List:**

**Mr Horn:** *Christmas: A Candid History* by Bruce Forbes

**Mrs Cathcart:** *The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories* by Various

**Miss Laing:** *Poems for Christmas* by Various

**Ms Fenwick:** *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch

**Mr Ranson:** *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey

**Ms Taylor:** *Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo

**Miss Lees:** *One Day* by David Nicholls

**Miss Kingston:** *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis



Mrs E Cathcart



### **Extracurricular Activities**

Pupils have enjoyed a full programme of extracurricular activities this term, with clubs being run in a variety of sports. Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in football, netball, rugby, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and cross country running. The popularity of these clubs has proved to be huge, with students engaging in team practices and fun recreation activities before school, lunchtimes and after school. In addition to this, the newly formed fitness suite has proved very popular with pupils, with many signing up to use the facility to improve their fitness as well as their physical, mental and social health.

We in the PE department are proud of the effort and commitment shown by the pupils that take part in these clubs and we welcome anyone else that would like to join in.

### **Football**

The popularity of football continues to grow and all year groups have played in the local league, North Tyneside cup and County cup competitions. Both the boys and girls teams have performed brilliantly with many victories earned so far. The Year 10 boys football team has made a good start to the season this year. They have not dropped a point in the league and have progressed in both the cup competitions. The Year 7, 8 and 9 boys teams are also undefeated so far this year in the league and will look to capitalise on this form moving forward in the new year.

Monday and Wednesday nights have seen our teams take part in Central Venue League 7-a-side competitions held at John Spence. The pupils have enjoyed these small sided games, even though some were played in fairly extreme weather conditions!

The newly formed Futsal competitions have proved hugely popular, with teams from Years 7 to 9 competing in the county cup competitions. The Year 7 boys team deserve special mention as they currently top their group with 4 wins from 4.



Finally, the teams have all played in their respective County Cup competitions this term, with the Year 9 and 10 boys teams progressing to the Quarter Finals to be held in the new year. The Year 8 and 10 girls teams are also still in their county competition and we wish all teams every success in their next round fixtures.

### **Netball**

The netball leagues for Year 7 to 11 pupils are well underway and will continue after the Christmas holidays. The teams have been dedicated to training and that has shown in their form so far this year. The Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams have started off the year in a superb manner. The Year 8 team have been unbeaten throughout all of their friendly matches since the start of October, with several of their wins being double figures. The Year 7's have also followed suit in winning all but one of their games; a draw in their first match the only game that wasn't a victory. The turnout at training sessions has been so high that there were two final teams chosen to play for the school.

The Year 9's have had success on the court playing against tough oppositions from new schools. The Year 10 team remains undefeated for the fourth year in a row. Year 11 have been crowned North Tyneside Champions in a one off tournament and continue to play well in the league. We look forward to the high levels of competition from all our netballers after the Christmas holidays.

### **Rugby**

The Year 10 boys rugby teams have competed in the County Cup competition this term, with games against St Mary's Catholic School and Longridge Towers School and Bede Academy. The boys have played some magnificent rugby in these games, and will be back in action in the new year. All other year group teams start their season in January with competitions throughout the spring term.





### **Basketball**

The Year 10/11 basketball team has been in action this term, competing in the North Tyneside Schools competitions. The team has performed tremendously well and qualified for the County finals in the new year, winning all but one of their games so far. A fantastic achievement and we wish all players the best of luck in the next stage of competition.

### **Cross Country**

Before half term, all pupils in Marden completed the cross country event in their PE lessons. The top performing pupils were selected to represent the school at the North Tyneside Championships. Runners across Years 7 to 11 competed at Monkseaton High School in the North Tyneside Championships this term.

Marden had a top 3 finish in the Minor Boys/ Junior Boys/ Inter Boys and Junior Girls/ Inter Girls team events and individually, had 19 runners qualify for the County Championships in January. Very well done to all runners.

### **Badminton and Volleyball**

Also this term, the Year 9 and Year 10/11 girls had their Central Venue League badminton competitions, with both teams doing fantastically well. The Year 10 boys teams also battled hard, with all 4 teams finishing 4th in their respective competition, narrowly missing out on the finals competition.

The KS4 volleyball teams have also been in action in their Central Venue League this term, with the boys having played two competitions and the girls one. The boys teams won their competitions, and the KS3 girls also victorious in their tournament. Volleyball is a growing sport at Marden, but players have learned quickly and developed a great team mentality.

### **House Competitions 2024**

And finally, the PE team are pleased to announce that there will be House sports competitions starting after school next term. Each Monday and Wednesday there will be a tournament between the houses in a variety of sports. Please watch out for the posters around school and on social media for information of what is coming up.

Mr G Smith



This half term we had a Year 7 Drop Day, which focused on the important theme of safety. This event provided an opportunity for our Year 7 students to engage with a series of expert-led sessions, designed to enhance their understanding of various aspects of personal safety. Throughout the day, students participated in a range of informative workshops delivered by external providers. These sessions were carefully selected to equip students with valuable skills and knowledge, helping them make safe and informed choices as they navigate the challenges of adolescence.

One of the key sessions was delivered by the local fire brigade, who shared their expertise on fire safety. Students learned about fire prevention, what to do in an emergency, and how to stay safe in a variety of situations. Another crucial topic covered was gambling awareness. As part of a broader initiative to address the rising concerns around online gambling and its impact on young people. They explored the risks associated with gambling, including the potential for addiction, the impact on mental health, and how to recognise the signs of problem gambling. The third session focused on relationship safety. Students participated in discussions and activities around healthy relationships, consent, and how to recognise unhealthy behaviours. This workshop aimed to foster respectful relationships, ensuring that students feel confident in identifying what constitutes a healthy relationship and what to do if they find themselves in difficult or unsafe situations.

The Year 7 Drop Day was a great experience for all involved. It allowed our students to gain a deeper understanding of critical safety issues, from fire prevention to online risks and relationship well-being. We believe that the knowledge gained on the day will not only benefit students in the immediate future but will also empower them to make safe, informed decisions as they grow older.

Mrs C MacLeod



## STEMFest 10 Oct 2024

30 year 9 students had a fantastic day out at STEMfest. This involved an exhibition of local STEM companies, from different sectors including; Space, manufacturing, cyber security and environment & energy. The students really took the opportunity to get involved in different activities and challenges. They spent time talking to professionals working in these companies and became more aware of the various career opportunities and pathways. They also found out about the moons in our solar system whilst visiting the planetarium. The students had a really enjoyable day and were a credit to the school. This has definitely helped to inspire and encourage them to consider a career in STEM.





You can get into careers with STEM in different ways, sometimes including degrees, degree apprenticeship and just apprenticeship.

That there are loads of opportunities around the north east

That there are lots and lot of different jobs in STEM

A lot of careers require a science qualification

That there are different types of engineering and that you need different skills for them.

### Heart Dissections

Year 10 Biology students have been studying the heart as part of the Organisation topic.

Students observed or carried out their own heart dissections giving them the chance to test their understanding of heart structure by identifying key features of the heart.



This term, Kielder Observatory visited Marden for an exciting Astronomy evening. Participants had the opportunity to explore what the night sky would look like that evening, before braving the chilly November air to use telescopes and observe the stars.

The group was treated to stunning views of Jupiter and Saturn, as well as other fascinating star clusters scattered across the night sky.



## Science House Challenge

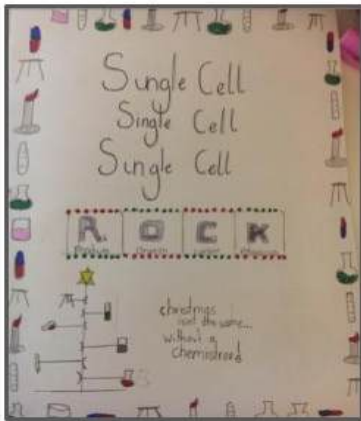


### Science Christmas Card Competition

The annual RSC Christmas card competition brought in some excellent entries from students which you can see got them lots of house points.



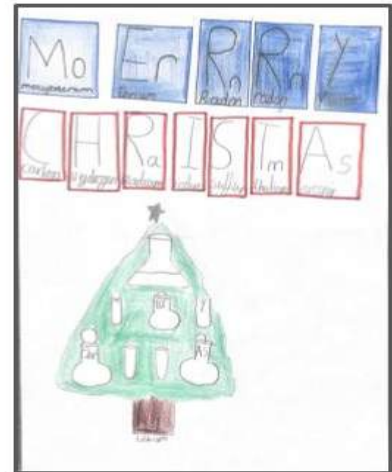
## Year 7



**2nd Place  
Freya Campbell**



**1st Place  
Charlie Harker**

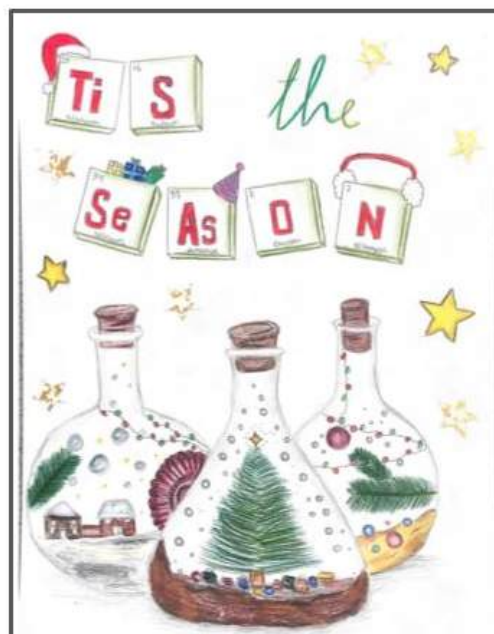


**3rd Place  
Ani Ramesh**

## Year 8



**2nd Place  
George Herms**



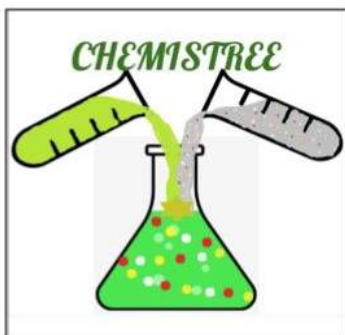
**1st Place  
Isla MacKenzie**



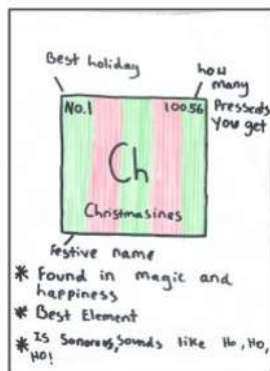
**3rd Place  
Jess Meadows**



# Special Mentions to



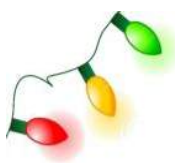
**Molly  
McLoughlin  
YR 7**



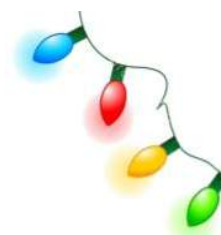
**Evie  
Close-Ash  
Yr 8**



**Hanna Idris  
Yr 7**



**Overall Best  
Design goes to:  
Isla Mackenzie**



Mrs C Atkinson



## Parents and Students

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of the Design & Technology Department newsletter! It's been an exciting term so far, filled with creativity, hands-on projects, and new learning experiences. We're thrilled to share some of the fantastic work happening in the department, and we hope you enjoy reading about the exciting developments across all year groups.

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### Year 7 – Delicious Food Creations

This term, Year 7 students have continued to work on different rotations; food, textiles and pewter casting. Those who have studied food this term have been learning the basics of food preparation, safety and cooking. They've been putting their culinary skills to the test by creating a range of tasty and nutritious dishes from apple crumble to pasta salad, cheese cakes to chicken goujons.

These hands-on food sessions have allowed students to develop practical skills while also considering healthy eating choices and food safety.

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### Year 8 – Designing and Making with Materials

In Year 8, students are applying their creativity and problem-solving skills to design and make functional products with Miss Nicholls and Mrs Green, whilst other groups have worked with Miss Tait on Food Preparation and Nutrition, and Mrs Anderson/Mrs Tomlinson in STEM. There's been some fantastic outcomes showing students individuality, creativity and developing their practical skills in using both wood and metal.

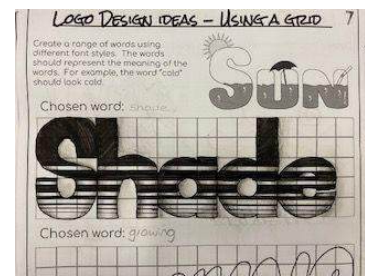
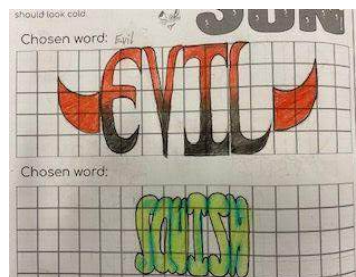
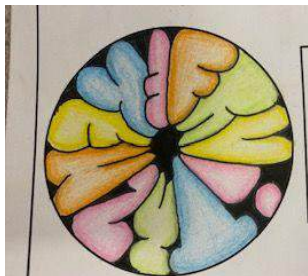
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## Year 9 – Developing Design Skills and Understanding Ergonomics

Year 9 students are taking their design skills to the next level by focusing on both functionality and aesthetics. Again students rotate around specialist staff on projects that incorporate practical solutions and thoughtful design principles. Furthering their practical skills in the workshop developing creative storage solutions. Mrs Green has introduced students to the concepts of ergonomics and anthropometrics in designing and their importance in creating successful, safe products, whilst Mrs Anderson and Mrs Tomlinson have focused on graphic designs skills, looking at the use of typography and effective graphics in creating designs for a festival. Those with Miss Tait have continued with food preparation and Nutrition, students are given greater levels of challenge, focusing on independence as well as new theory content to prepare them for independence in cooking as a life skill, but also considering the skills needed for those considering the subject at GCSE and beyond.

These projects allow students to explore the intersection of design, function, and user experience, helping them gain a deeper understanding of the design process and user requirements.



## Year 10 – Extra-curricular Food Sessions

A group of year 10 students have spent Monday afternoons developing their culinary skills with Miss Nicholls. The aim of these sessions was to develop confidence in the food room, but also build independence in following recipes, utilising sub-skills required such as numeracy, literacy and time planning. Students have been fantastic with their engagement, producing a range of festive goodies, from savoury puff pastry Christmas Tree's to Festive chocolate brownies.



## GirlsGetSET

This year's Girls Get Set STEM Initiative began last month with two groups of year 8 and 9 students taking part in their first online masterclass with Baker Hughes. The topic of this masterclass was carbon capture, utilisation and storage and will link to their future challenge in the new year. This challenge will involve the students coming up with a practical solution to solve a problem set for them and will result in them giving presentations to leaders at Baker Hughes about their findings in order to achieve their bronze and silver cadet awards. Their work continues this week with a career spotlight from several female members of the Baker Hughes team, one of them an ex-student from Marden, to discuss the varying routes and roles that they have taken to the jobs that they are in now. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to ask any career/job related questions to gain insight into the different routes available to them as to their next step after their journey here at Marden has ended. Here's a [link](#) to Girls Get Set Baker Hughes Website. You'll see the girls taking part in last year's graduation day which was fun-filled as usual!

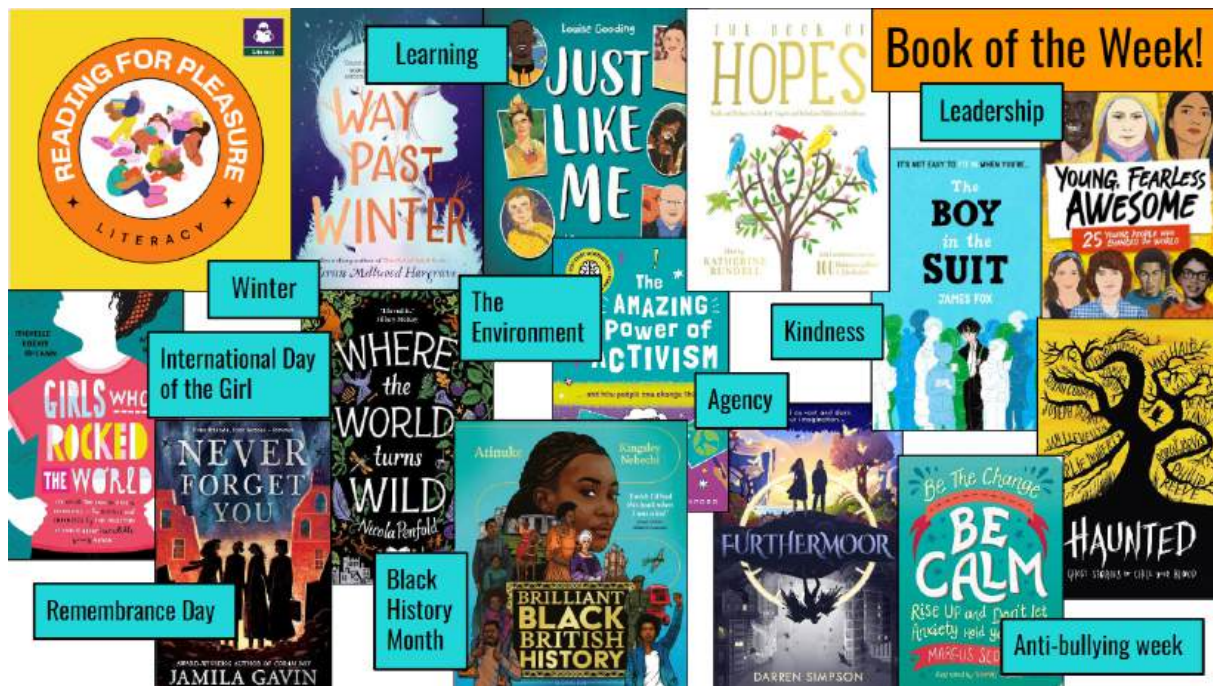


Ms K Nicholls



## The Library Book of the Week: Winter Term Reads

Each week the *Library Club* selects a book for students to read an extract from together in form time. Literacy Leaders lead the discussion and it offers the opportunity to explore the books we have on offer in the library. Here are all the recommendations that we have had for the Winter Term!



# Winter Literacy Competition

Students have a creative writing competition to get involved in over the festive period. They can send their creations to the Literacy Cloud for publication and house points! They explored some poems from Benjamin Zephaniah and Hollie McNish during [Reflection Time](#) last week for inspiration, culminating in a whole-class performance of a poem! Below is one of them, *You Do Not Need a Chimney* by Hollie McNish.



## Winter Literacy Challenge...

***WRITE SOMETHING  
INSPIRED BY WINTER.***

- You could write:
- ★ a poem
  - ★ a story
  - ★ an article
  - ★ a speech
  - ★ a graphic novel

All entries will be **published on the Literacy Cloud** and receive **50 house-points!**

Email your creations to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net)

### **You Do Not Need a Chimney for Santa Claus to Come** (Hollie McNish)

You do not need a chimney  
for Santa Claus to come  
You do not need a fireplace  
to hang your stocking from

the top flat of a tower block;  
a barge on a canal;  
the spare room of a friend's house;  
a hostel; a hotel

That stuff is just from tele  
Do not believe the films  
You do not need a great big house  
for Santa to come in

So snuggle into sleep now  
and don't listen to anyone  
who says you need a chimney  
for Santa Claus to come.

He's got a sleigh, for goodness sake  
and loads of elves at hand;  
Mrs Claus behind the scenes  
computing all the plans;  
Flying, glowing reindeer  
galloping the Christmas air

Of course, he can manage  
a few quick flights of stairs -

**1. Read the poem aloud a few times all together!**

**2. Divide into groups and take a line or section of the poem each.**

## PERFORMING POETRY

**3. In your group, practice reading your line(s) together.**

- How will you do it?
- In unison?
  - Taking a phrase each?
  - Using a main reader and then secondary readers who repeat words for emphasis?
  - Play with your performance!
  - Where will you pause for dramatic effect?
  - Which words will you emphasize?
  - How will you vary your volume and change your tone?





## Year 7 Sparx Reader Christmas Challenge

Students in year 7 can compete to win the Sparx Reader Christmas challenge by reading their e-books, completing quizzes and collecting Sparx points. The top 3 readers will begin the new year with a house point boost!



**YEAR 7 SPARX READER CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE!**

Read your ebooks, take quizzes and collect Sparx points over the winter break!



The top 3 readers will start January with a house point boost!

1st: 300 HPs  
2nd: 200 HPs  
3rd: 100 HPs



## The Weekly Literacy Challenge

Every Monday students are emailed the [Weekly Literacy Challenge](#). Linked to the theme of the week, each challenge gives students the opportunity to be creative, receive 50 house points and have their pieces published on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Students should send their creative writing to the [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net). Every entry wins 50 house points and will be published on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Below are some of the contributions we have received this half term, inspired by Remembrance Day, Halloween, Black History Month, The Environment...



The challenge will be connected to the Theme of the Week...

Be creative and use your imagination!

- ★ Write poems, songs, stories, articles, speeches...
- ★ Draw, design, collage, sculpture, paint...
- ★ Dance, video, sing, play an instrument...
- ★ Bake!

All entries will be published on the Literacy Cloud and receive 50 house-points!

Email your creations to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net)

# Remembrance Day 2024



I am the man in power  
Yet I am forced to make decisions.

The world I left behind is now a mystery to me  
The choices I make now affect history.

The country I form is not one where all are happy  
Everyday i'm forced to make choices based on people wants  
And form the world they want.

As I sit on my throne the world depends on me  
I envy those with choice but feel sympathy for those without.

I am the man with power  
but am controlled by those without .

But then the world yet again turned  
To face another challenge the threat so  
Well know has taken the lives around me  
And so my life has been taken once again.

Once again I am forced to chain  
Myself once again to put my life and  
So many others went to war.

So now the world around me is  
Slowly crumbling the things that chain me  
Down take the lives around me  
From now my world is truly gone.

Gabriel Kennedy

## Remembrance Day 2024



Isla Mckenzie



### Frankenstein

I started from my sleep with horror ; a cold dew covered my forehead [which was blue by now as a result of the freezing temperature] and my teeth chattered without conclusion. I woke to the deafening clatter which was peculiar as a result of the fact that i was alone. The darkness outside was sinister and it led me to feel uneasy; the atmosphere was eerie and my brain was defiant on letting me move. I was paralysed. Stuck still to my bed. I was overcome by the fear of the unknown- what kind of spectre was this creature in my cabin. The floorboards in the ancient, fragile cabin creaked echoing through the glacial temperatured air. Its footsteps closed in toward my room. The door handle turned so slow that it gave me time to imagine the torture I would soon be put through. Yet this was all my fault. Karma for my corrupt invention. He was my own creation. His flesh wreaked of that which i had dug up from rotting bodies in the cemetery. Neck and head fixed together with a thick metal screw penetrating through



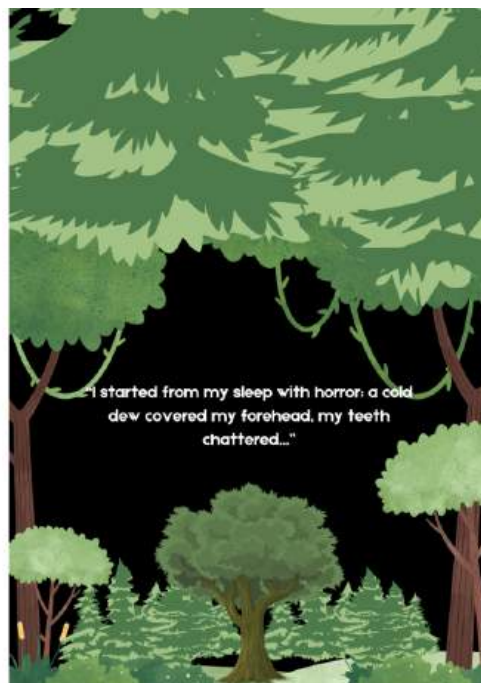
his dark green skin. I could see his overarching, mammoth size from under the shaking, pale door that matched the colour of my face with fear as a result of the pressure from his substantial muscles on its handle. He was dressed formally in matte black pants, dress shirt and coat. That fashion was equally matched by his stylish shoes and dark hair in strands that tipped over the top his forehead. His nose broad and green and his eyelids stooped considerably low covering almost all of his black pupils. I lifted up my heavy limbs following the labour and work I'd been through the day before in making this monstrous creature. In an attempt to avoid death by this freak of nature i hid in my oak brown wardrobe. He entered the room with monumentous sized steps and seemed to gravitate toward my ill-thought out hiding spot in the ancient wardrobe. I shook with fear and a bone chilling shiver fell slowly done my boney body. He put his hand on the handle. My life went dark..

Frankie Cummings

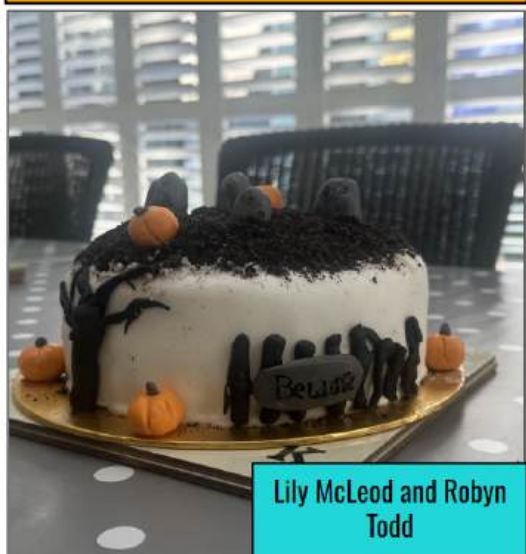
Halloween!



Imogen Kinney



Halloween!



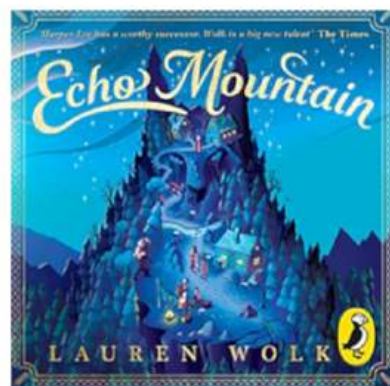
Lily McLeod and Robyn Todd





## Poetry Inspired by *Echo Mountain*

Having fun while party peaks  
 Losing jobs as money leaks  
 People trying to find a home  
 People trapped and all alone  
 The economy has now gone bust  
 Depression here for all of us  
 The president is relaxed and holding  
 a cup  
 While also hoovering all the money up  
 Once the happy but now the sad  
 Once the calm but now the mad  
 Once the good but now the bad  
 Now it's money we all wish we had



George Rosbrook

## Black History Month

In the memories of Black British history,  
 There stand many icons,  
 Each one with a story of resilience and glory,  
 Their achievements shining like beacons.

From Mary Seacole to Olive Morris,  
 Their courage and strength awe-inspiring,  
 Their contributions to society are  
 tremendous,  
 Their legacies are forever inspiring.

To choose just one seems impossible,  
 For each one is amazing,  
 Their impact immeasurable,  
 Their influence felt near and far.

So let us celebrate them all,  
 The heroes of black British history,  
 Their stories must never fall,  
 Their greatness is a lasting memory.

Rosie Derrington





## Black History Month

### DIANE ABBOTT

- Diane abbot was the first black women to become an MP.
- Abbott has served on a number of parliamentary committees on social and international issues and held shadow ministerial positions in successive Shadow Cabinets. She is a wonderful, inspiring, strong woman.



Jess Meadows



## Use Your Voice!





Imogen Kinney



## Literacy at Home on The Literacy Cloud.

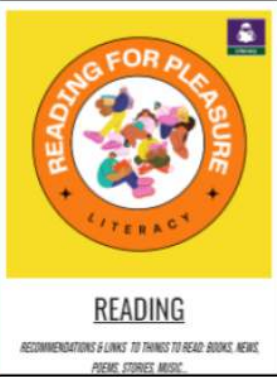
There are lots of reading recommendations and links, literacy challenges and a celebration of students' creations on The [Literacy Cloud](#). Take a look!




  
Literacy

### Looking for things to read alongside your books?

Visit the "Reading" section of the [Literacy Cloud](#).



**READING**  
RECOMMENDATIONS & LINKS TO THINGS TO READ: BOOKS, NEWS, POEMS, STORIES, MUSIC.




WHAT CAN I READ?

Novels, poems, news articles, blogs, talks, magazines, journals, audiobooks...

### Get published on the Literacy Cloud!


If you would like to be featured on the [Literacy Cloud](#) then check out the weekly challenges & competitions!




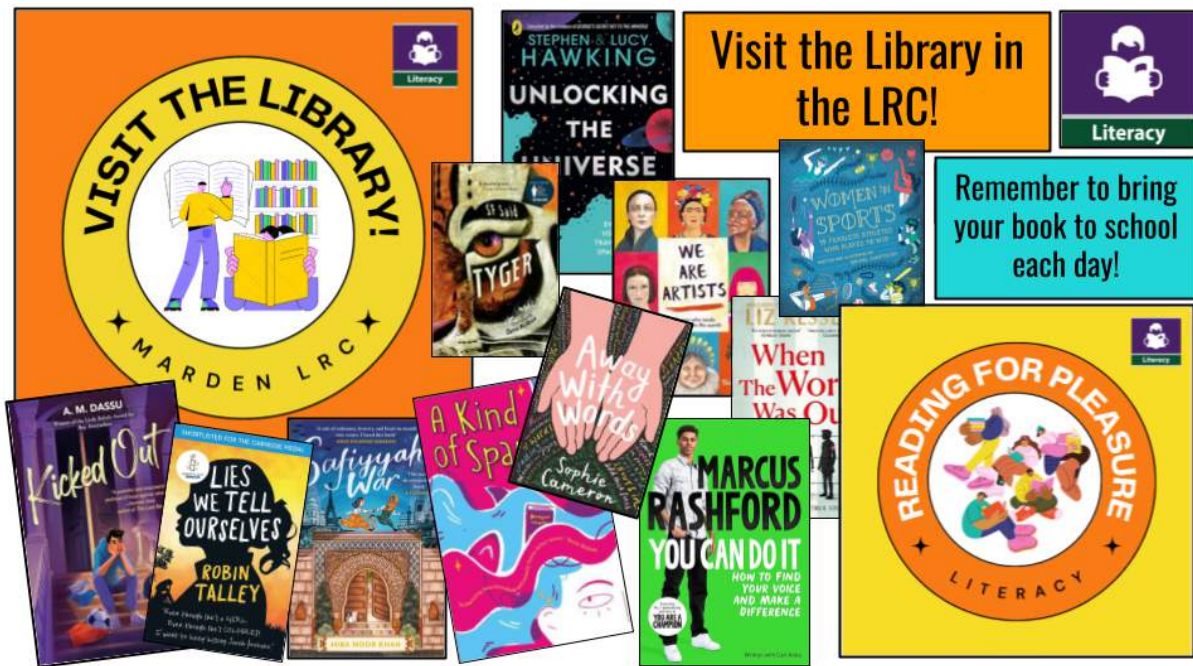
**THE WEEKLY LITERACY CHALLENGE**  
**LITERACY CHALLENGES**  
CREATIVE WRITING, ARTWORK, MUSIC & BAKING INSPIRED BY YOUR READING!

Send your entries to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net).

Each entry wins 50 house points!



  
Literacy



Ms A Taylor



# MARDEN



## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 7.

(You should be trying to read at least

- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Wonder - *R.J Palacio*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- The Adventure Series *Lee Tony*
- The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn - *Mark Twain*
- Blitzcat - *Robert Westall*
- Holes - *Louis Sachar*
- Stormbreaker - *Anthony Horowitz*
- The Hobbit - *J R R Tolkien*
- Madame Doubtfire - *Anne Fine*
- The Edge - *Alan Gibbons*
- Millions - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*

## Want a challenge?

- War Horse - *Michael Morpurgo*
- Great Expectations - *Charles Dickens*
- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy - *JRR Tolkien*
- The Book Thief - *Marcus Zusak*
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 8.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - *Douglas Adams*
- The Hunger Games - *Suzanne Collins*
- After the First Death - *Robert Cormier*
- The Universe Versus Alex Woods - *Gavin Extance*
- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Carrie's War - *Nina Bawden*
- The Foreshadowing - *Marcus Sedgewick*
- The Northern Lights series - *Philip Pullman*
- Noughts and Crosses - *Malorie Blackman*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- Martyn Pig - *Kevin Brooks*
- The Ruby in the Smoke - *Philip Pullman*
- Small Steps - *Louis Sachar*

## Want a challenge?

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - *Mark Haddon*
- Life of Pi - *Yann Martel*
- The Help - *Kathryn Stockett*
- Animal Farm - *George Orwell*
- Jane Eyre - *Charlotte Bronte*

# MARDEN



# READS

## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 9.

(You should be trying to read at least

*Animal Farm - George Orwell*

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon*

*Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck*

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie*

*Looking for Alaska - John Green*

*Lord of the Flies - William Golding*

*The Help - Kathryn Stockett*

*Life of Pi - Yann Martel*

## Want a challenge?

*Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte*

*Junk - Melvin Burgess*

*1984 - George Orwell*

*The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger*

*The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald*

## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 10 & 11.

(You should be trying to read at least

*Tip! Try to get into the habit of reading newspapers too! This will help for your*

*1984 - George Orwell*

*Animal Farm - George Orwell*

*A Room with a View - E.M. Forster*

*The Book Thief - Markus Zusak*

*Brighton Rock - Graham Greene*

*Catch 22 - Joseph Heller*

*The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger*

*The Color Purple - Alice Walker*

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon*

*David Copperfield - Charles Dickens*

*East of Eden - John Steinbeck*

*Frankenstein - Mary Shelley*

*The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck*

*The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald*

*The Help - Kathryn Stockett*

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou*