

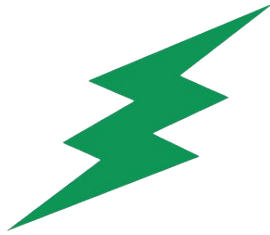


Lister

April 2022

# Lister News

## Student



# Lister Student Voice



*Always Aiming for Excellence*

## Message from our Head Boy and Girl

### We are delighted to welcome you to this edition of the Lister Student News

To begin, we would like to celebrate some of the events that have been taking place within the school community and our achievements.

Where better to begin than the Lister Community Concert that took part last week, with performances from students in every year group and students from our local primary schools. It was a fantastic watch and when coupled with the pantomime on show this week, these events reflect all the hard work that Lister Drama and Music students and staff put in behind the scenes.

With the opening of the new canteen and world class lecture theatre, we are seeing some of the new facilities coming to life and improving the quality of education and school life at Lister.

With less than 60 days until the start of the GCSE Exams, we would like to thank Year 11 students for all their efforts in staying focused and attending intervention sessions. Every moment matters so let's make sure that we keep it going!

Finally, with all the uncertainty around world events, particularly in Ukraine, we would like to remind you to stay kind, polite and considerate to everyone. Let's uphold the Lister core values.

Have a safe and restful Easter break!



*Het Vora  
and  
Mariyam Khatri*

### *What to expect from this publication*

I am delighted to introduce the Lister Student News 2022 Spring Edition. This edition has a wide range of articles that pupils have taken an interest in. There are lots to read about from widespread topics to book reviews. All pupils who have written an article have worked extremely hard so do congratulate them! There have been many successes this term, so do read the newsletter and share it with friends and family. There is also a section on responses to parliament and committee meetings. You can check out what feedback has been shared with the wider school community. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and have a restful break.

*Ms Yasmin*

# A Year 9 pupil talks about the Importance of Language

## Why will learning a language help us in the future?

Languages are so important as there are many advantages of learning another language. Firstly, it improves your long term memory as it can develop new areas of your mind as well as strengthens your natural ability to focus which could help you learn even more and expand your brain even further.

Secondly, learning a language opens you up to more career opportunities, as on your job applications if you mention you speak a language other than English you can catch the eye of the interviewer.

Finally, there are academic advantages for learning languages as they make you flexible and develop your multitasking skills.



Learning a language can help you as it can open your mind towards different cultures. It really shows you how diverse we all are and how unique we all are as a language is part of our identity, much like our gender and age. Learning a language has many benefits and can help you in the future. It is not just another way to communicate but another way to see the world. If you are able to speak another language, you are able to relate more to an individual's culture and identity. It will also help you expand your mindset and become more articulate.



Learning a language is very difficult, but one that has many benefits. Studies have also shown that younger people are able to learn languages quicker and are able to store more information than an adult. This suggests that we should make the most of learning a language in school, as we have the opportunity to learn a language in school.

Finally, learning another language can have great benefits on your career path. Many employers state that having another language is highly desirable in their applications. This suggests that it is very important to try and learn another language as the benefits outweigh any disadvantages.



# A Year 7 pupil talks about Plastic Pollution

## Why is it so important?

The picture to the right is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the place that contains up to 3.6 trillion pieces of plastic. This is approximately 49,000 tonnes of plastic. And on a bigger scale, in all oceans, there are 269,000 tonnes of plastic. That statistic right there is equivalent to 269,000 dead sea animals. So how did the world get so destroyed, and, more importantly, what can we do to fix it?



Plastic was first created in 1907 by the Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland. He named his invention Bakelite. He made it with the chemicals formaldehyde and phenol, under heat and pressure. It was invented because clay and glass, the materials that were previously used were too brittle. Ironically, it was a great invention at the time because it was hard to get destroyed and could be used multiple times. But now the fact that it is hard to destroy is a massive problem and is killing our sea creatures.

So what do we do to help? Well, you will have heard the advice many times before, but that is because it is important. Recycle anything you can. Help out by picking up litter. Go on protest marches. Make posters to raise awareness. Turn off lights. It is so simple yet so important. It could already be too late, but we as the human race must never stop fighting to save the environment.

Or, to put it in the words of Sir David Attenborough, *“Young people - they care. They know that this is the world that they're going to grow up in, that they're going to spend the rest of their lives in. But, I think it's more idealistic than that. They actually believe that humanity, human species, has no right to destroy and despoil regardless.”*

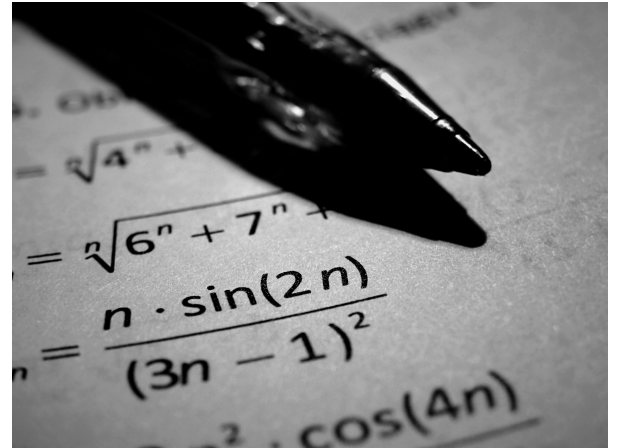


*By Clement Coulton K3*

## Literacy in mathematics. Is it Important?

### An overview

Literacy in mathematics can play a big role in not only maths exams but also during GCSE examinations. Literacy can also play a big role in terms of career too! By developing a student's literacy in mathematics it can impact their career in the long run and hence why it is so important. Some of you guys may just see maths as symbols and equations. But there is a deeper understanding that must be taken.



### What can it do to help you?

When facing a worded question there is more than just the maths. Maths is not just about memorising a method, but actually trying to understand the question. It requires the understanding of complex vocabulary such as “sum of” or “reduction” or “increase”. Key terms like these are used to train your mind in the real world because when you leave school in a few years and embrace the professional world around you, mathematical vocabulary may become helpful in your field of work.

If you have a good understanding of mathematical concepts, real life situations will become easier. For example, if you are comparing prices in the supermarket, the understanding of percentages will be really helpful as a way of saving money. Maths is commonly used in majority of jobs and is not always seen in the form of numbers. Hence why literacy and language is important in mathematics. If a person lacks the knowledge of literacy in mathematics prior to a math-based job. They have a high chance of struggling since they are not familiar with such complex words. As a UKMT participant I also think that literacy takes a big part in your career in maths. So take it seriously!

A lamp is on sale at £22.05  
This is a 10% reduction of the normal price.  
  
What was the price of the lamp before the reduction?

Think about the strategies that is required to answer this question.  
Literacy can be seen everywhere. Even mathematics!



*By Adil Waseen H9*

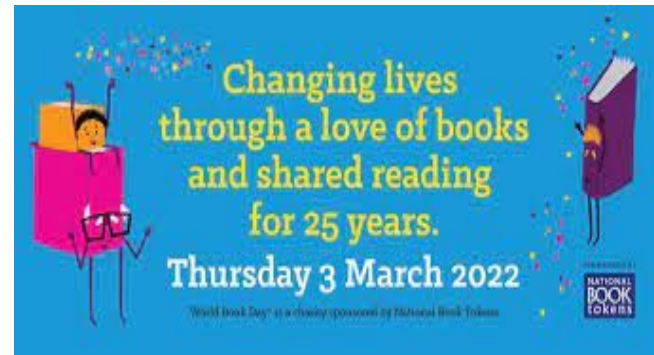
# A Year 8 looks at Reading: My book review

Why is reading so essential?

## World Book Day

This year *World Book Day* just took place on Thursday, 3 March. On *World Book Day* pupils get to dress up as their favourite characters from a book. The aim is to get young people to read and love books and it is to celebrate authors, books, illustrators and (of course) reading. Also it is to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading.

World Book Day is a charity event held annually in the United Kingdom and Ireland.



## My Book Review

My favourite book is 'The Good Hawk' by Joseph Elliott. The genre of this book is fantasy fiction. It is one of my favourite because the book is adventurous and left me with so many emotions. While I was reading this book I felt shocked, amazed and speechless.

This book is about two unexpected heroes who must make a dangerous journey to save their people. Agatha is a Hawk, brave and fierce, who protects her people by patrolling the high walls of their island home. Jaime, thoughtful and anxious, is an Angler, but he hates the sea. Worse, he's been chosen for a duty that the clan hasn't required for generations: to marry. When a disaster strikes and the clan is kidnapped. Now Agatha and Jaime has to go through a dangerous journey to save the clan. The real question is will they make it on time to save their people?

## Why is reading important?

Reading is important because it develops the mind, improves your concentration and memory. Reading reduces stress and helps you relax and it strengthens your writing abilities, enhances your knowledge and increases your imagination and creativity. When we hear or read stories we are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps us build our own vocabulary and it improves our understanding.



*By Maria Salek G10*

## Why not join us?

This year, FemSoc has been meeting every Friday after school, and has been involved in a range of activities. We have discussed issues within feminism, such as abortion and intersectionality. We have had presentations from students within FemSoc about topics such as "The Flaws in Feminism" and we have discussed why the word "feminism" carries so much stigma and how to get rid of it.



On 8th of March it is international women's day this year's topic is #BreakTheBias, FemSoc will be leading an assembly on this topic and will be organising many other activities. One of which will be raising money for a charity of our choice. The students in Femsoc are very keen to raise money for a charity called RAWA. RAWA stands for the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan. It's a charity that has been around for 45 years and does amazing work to help women and girls in Afghanistan, and especially given the current circumstances in this country, it is more important than ever to help out wherever we can.

Make sure you get involved in all the activities and opportunities that will arise for International Women's Day and challenge yourself to learn more about this topic!



At the beginning of this academic year, there were 6 members attending FemSoc, there are now around 20, who attend every week. We intend to see the numbers grow, so please do join us on Fridays after school from 3 - 4.15pm in S112. Collect a permission slip from myself or Ms Alexander (S113). Spread the word to all of your friends, we hope to see lots of you there!

# Parental and Community Engagement

*The Committee members met up throughout this half term to discuss learning and achievement of the school. They came up with lots of ideas and suggestions after receiving feedback from their peers as to what they valued as important to our wider community. They then discussed this during the parliamentary meeting. Below are topics that were discussed and the successful actions that were met:*

## Why is it important...

- Lister School has a very diverse community and we would like to embrace that.
- The difficult transition into secondary school causing the drop in parental engagement.
- There are many things that we can do to improve parental engagement with a range of new community orientated activities.
- We currently have several points in the year to boost parental engagement for example: parent forums, student progress day and many opportunities to see students in productions and concerts.
- We want parents/carers to have as much input in the pupil's progress.

## What we discussed...

- We want to build a relationship between parents and carers and the school to boost engagement.
- We would like to continue to have parent forums on Go4Schools, accelerated reader to allow parents and guardians to monitor their child's progress regularly. The feedback we got from the last parent forum was extremely positive.
- Introduce new forums for parents and guardians especially around revision and how parents can support with this.
- We can introduce EAL ambassadors and networking between parents who speak the same language. This will help boost the amount of parents who need support as we know that not many pupils speak English with their parents at home. This could be encouraged by having coffee mornings for parents in the new cafe.
- Introducing a community event for events such as Eid that play a big impact in the community.



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## Why is it important...

- Reading undoubtedly plays a key role in any child's development
- Reading develops vocabulary which is taken throughout the rest of your life, and opens up so many more opportunities.
- It allows students to access higher level texts which they might have to for their English Language GCSEs
- We currently have DEAR lessons in place which could be better used to allow for the most amount of reading-related progress
- There is a language barrier which may be stopping parents from reading with their children

## What we discussed...

- We want to be able to work closer with parents to encourage longer, more quality reading at home to allow for students to initially develop a love for reading, before encouraging them to explore academic literature
- We want to work a reading rewards system into the enrichment model to further encourage students to read
- Holding sessions for parents in school, which would then allow them to understand and interpret the English language better and give them a chance to read with their children.
- Regular parent and guardian forums to show them accelerated reader and how to engage their child into reading. It is important to emphasise to parents how important reading is in making progress in all subjects.

# Character Award

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## Why is it important...

- Every student should feel motivated and incentivized in school.
- Students should be rewarded for being consistent in their education as this takes a lot of time and effort.
- It allows students access to a wider range of activities outside of the classroom setting.
- Students have a number of opportunities to develop their character and gain valuable skills for when they leave Lister.
- We recognise achievement and should reward pupils that are over-achieving.

## What we discussed...

- How accessible the character award is to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils at Lister. Students in those year groups feel that they have less opportunity to achieve the character award.
- We discussed whether we should reevaluate the character award to make it more incentivised for upper school students.
- We discussed that trips would be a good incentive as it encourages good behaviour and discourages bad behaviour.
- It would be good to have smaller rewards for consistent engagement in lesson.
- To introduce a smaller character awards day more regularly so pupils stay motivated to achieve it. Having the rewards trip at the end of the year may mean that students lose motivation and it would feel more achievable.

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## Why is it important...

- Lister is a school full of systems and rules built on the voices and recommendations of its students. We as a school work hard to incorporate student opinions into our regulations and consider it fundamental in shaping the values we uphold.
- It is important that we have student representatives to voice pupil concerns to ensure that the school recognises the needs of pupils.
- Parliament consists of house representatives, senior students and form representatives. This ensures there are all types of pupils being represented in the school.
- We recognise achievement and should reward pupils that are over-achieving.

## What we discussed...

- No split break times as there are pupils that spend break alone. Split breaks will no longer continue after Easter.
- We expressed having tutor time in the morning as it starts the day positively. We will now have tutor time in the morning from summer term.
- To ensure there is a variety of students in student parliament to ensure full representation.
- We discussed how ABA's can have more of an impact to the wider school community.
- We discussed the lack of praises that upper school students get.
- The lack of decision making lower school pupils get as they feel underrepresented. This means that more representation will need to take place during parliament sessions.
- The safety of pupils around corridors as there is a lot of overcrowding, especially during lesson changeover. This may lead to pupils being late and getting a concern and could potentially lead to injuries.
- We discussed the possibility of an overdraft system for pupils who may not have topped up for lunch. This will allow pupils to focus in class if they have had lunch and gives them time to top up their card again.

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## Why is it important...

- Whilst school serves a multitude of purposes in our day to day lives, the form of teaching and learning is indeed one of the primary concerns for educators and students.
- Student input in the teaching policies is essential to driving progress in the school.
- Teaching and learning has many aspects, from do-now starters in lessons to the consistency of homework across all subjects. It is important that students are able to feedback on how we can improve teaching and learning in the school regularly.
- The focus of the last committee was on getting student input on the homework policies.

## What we discussed...

- We also proposed that all homework is to be set on Google Classroom so students can track what homework they have outstanding and when it is due. A last proposal made on homework was on the type of tasks set. We believe that younger students would benefit from homework that was more creative and challenged them to learn about things that aren't necessarily in the curriculum, whilst older year groups would benefit from revision tasks.
- We discussed the lack of praises that upper school students get.
- The lack of decision making lower school pupils get as they feel underrepresented.
- The safety of pupils around corridors as there is a lot of overcrowding, especially during lesson changeover. This may lead to pupils being late and getting a concern and could potentially lead to injuries.
- We discussed the possibility of an overdraft system for pupils who may not have topped up for lunch. This will allow pupils to focus in class if they have had lunch and gives them time to top up their card again.
- Students expressed their wish for something in which they could take notes but felt that it would be more sustainable and useful to not have a full planner.

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## Why is it important...

- We need to speak about mental health more openly in schools.
- Support should be readily available for pupils who are going through mental health issues.
- There should be more parental awareness of mental health as parents/carers may not have enough knowledge of what their child is going through and how best to support.
- Lister is currently has a vertical tutoring system. This should be used to its advantage as peer mentoring can be a good way of dealing with issues, especially older students mentoring younger students.

## What we discussed...

- We hope to emphasise the services available for all students, whether they are dealing with general anxiety and low moods, or further up the severity scale, with thoughts of self harm or suicide. The message we want to get across is that there is support available no matter how big or small a student's struggles with mental health are.
- There is currently a wide range of mental health service that the school offers. However, place2be is no longer active in school as the school counsellor has been away. The school is now looking for a substitute for Place2be to ensure that pupils feel supported with their mental health.
- Students spoke about how it's hard to know what services are available to them. This has now been added to the Lister website. If you go under Students > Wellbeing - you will find the Six Support Services, which are organisations accessible to students should they need any help with their mental health.
- We have now introduced mental health ambassadors who will also be active parliament members. There was a discussion on how to make mental health ambassadors more visible to the wider community. This will be something we discuss later on in the summer term.



## **Lister Student News**

### **A Showcase for Student Voice**

This booklet shares articles by students from years 7 to 11, from all 5 Houses, representing a relatively small selection of our hard working student community. We hope it does justice to the power of student voice at Lister. Pupils wrote these articles during the school term and have put time and effort in to make sure that each article is to a good standard. They have all worked incredibly hard to produce such diverse pieces representing their interests.

For those students not featured in this edition - we hope they will be inspired to contribute and share their views and passions in future. If you would like to be in the next edition of the Lister Student News please email Ms Yasmin (Head of Hawking House) with your interest.

To see more regular examples of excellent student work and other updates, check our website and follow us on twitter or instagram:

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