

Ballyclare High School

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



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LIBRARY DOORS OPEN!

The start of a new school year is always a busy one but this year proved especially so. The library opened its doors to the whole school this September after the lifting of some Covid-19 restrictions. Instead of running library inductions for the new Year 8 intake we had to extend these out to Year 9 who had not yet had the opportunity to visit the library and to recap for Year 10. It has been wonderful to see pupils back in the library studying hard, reading and enjoying the space.

AUDIT COMPLETE!

There was pressure at the start of term to get the library audit, which had began in at the end of the summer term, completed. This was a huge task and was only achieved with the help of our amazing classroom assistants. Thank you! The results of the audit should give us a much clearer picture of the library collection and help inform future developments.



OU READING FOR PLEASURE

This term I joined the OU Reading for Pleasure regional networking group for Teachers. This is part of a project that is gathering information on the reading for pleasure practises of pupils, developing evaluation tools for schools to use and sharing good practise in fostering a reading for pleasure community. There have been two meetings to date and already there are lots of interesting ideas I am looking forward to developing some of them with our Head of Literacy in the coming year.

READING SURVEY

The library conducted a reading survey with Years 8-10 asking pupils about their favourite fiction reads and books they would like to see in the library. This is part of our drive to promote reading for pleasure ensuring that pupils have some agency over their reading choices and are actively involved in reading and recommending good reads to others. The results of the survey will help inform our book purchasing this term. The first part of our book order is near completion and should hopefully be in school mid November. Murder mystery is still proving very popular at Ballyclare High!



PUPIL LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

I am pleased to announce that I now have a team of 9 library assistants from Years 9/10. They are a great help over the busy lunchtime period and I am looking forward to developing their role.

NI BOOK WEEK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ejn>

If you are looking for some reading inspiration for the whole family over the half term break then there are lots reading recommendations on the BBC website.

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HALLOWEEN SBOOKTACULAR!

The Halloween SBOOKtacular event was a great success! 'The Library Club' helped plan and run the event. There was a great variety of activities: spectacular colour wheel experiments, 'guess the shredded book' competition, a Hogwarts examination table-three levels of test could be taken, miraculous magic trick demonstrations, riddles to solve, word searches, decoding puzzles, treasure hunt and 'Hunt Scabbers' the missing rat in the library! This kept everyone very busy, none more so, than the fabulous Stem Ambassadors from the 6th form who ran the science demos, my library helpers and then other pupils who were dragged in last at the last minute.



Thank you to all!

SBOOKTACULAR WINNERS!

Hogwarts examination results:

'Pre-sorting' - many pupils excelled and should progress to the next level.

'OWL' - top scores go to **Caitlin Officer 9A** and **Valerie Chow 9A**

'NEWT' - top scores go to **Sophie Hunt 9C** and **Thomas Greer 9R**

Guess the title and Author of the Shredded Book?

The book was 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl. There were no correct guesses but I thought **Krish Shukla 8B** got the closest with 'The Magic Finger' by Roald Dahl.

BOOK COMPETITION WINNERS

To win a copy of the beautiful book 'October, October' by Katya Balen pupils had to do a piece of imaginative writing in 250 words or less. There were some great entries and it was really hard to choose but first place went to **Anna McClarty 9R**, runners up were **Beth Mooney 8B** and **Oscar McCullough 8E**. (There are prizes for the runners up and a bookmark for all entries.)

If pupils borrowed a book this week there were automatically entered into a prize draw to win a copy of 'Shadow Chaser' by Simon Tudhope a choose your own adventure story. The lucky winner is: **William Shiels 8L**



WINNING BID

The Library Club have had a busy term .We were successful in winning a bid for a set of fiction books for our Year 9/10 Reading group. Pupils have been reading 'Cruel Castle' and reviewing this book for Macmillan publishers. It proved to be a bit grisly but definitely got us in the mood for the Library SBOOKtacular event!

Have a great break everyone and looking forward to another busy term ahead!