



the BookMark

Secondary Library Newsletter

Librarian's Message:

Welcome to the School Library!

It has been a delight to welcome Year 7 students during the recent library orientation sessions. They are now equipped to use the library independently during recess and lunch, gaining access to the same valuable services enjoyed by their Senior School and Sixth Form peers. Nestled in the oldest part of the school, the library is a cherished and comforting space for students. As their librarian, I feel honored to support their development as readers and individuals through various literacy initiatives and by providing a diverse, multicultural print and digital collection. Exciting news: our library will undergo major renovations over the next two years, enhancing our space and offerings even further! We can't wait to share these improvements with you. In the meantime, please continue reading for more information about some of our current offerings.

Mrs. Wolffe



Borrowing rules

- Senior School Students can borrow two books for a period of two weeks.
- Sixth Form Students can borrow a maximum of five books for a period of three weeks.
- Fiction books are the only materials available for renewal.
- Fines and Penalty: Fines are not charged for overdue books however replacement fees are charged for lost or damaged books.



WHAT'S NEW!

"Readers' Circles" in the library

I am very pleased to announce the introduction of Readers' Circles at KS3 level this year. This approach integrates the skills of reading and oral communication around the appreciation of literary works. The main objective is to nurture the desires, tastes and appetite of our KS3 readers and develop their identity as readers.

During a Readers' Circle, a few students gather to discuss their current readings, which are all different and usually tailored to the students' reading levels and profiles. The Readers' Circle resembles a genuine social practice, similar to a dinner with friends where, informally, someone starts talking about their current readings. This leads to an exchange, more or less structured, filled with interactions and discussions about each person's experiences as a reader. Please note that Readers' Circles are not book clubs. Even those who haven't read anything in a while can fully participate by sharing their experiences! Various activities and techniques are used to facilitate the conversation amongst students.



Food for thought:



School libraries: a welcome refuge

With schools' increased concern with the promotion of student wellbeing, the role of school libraries as wellbeing supportive spaces has gained attention.

According to a recent report conducted by CILIP (The Library and Information Association), children often view the school library as a safe space at school as well as a source of reading material. The report highlighted a study where students drew pictures of their ideal library spaces,

and it was interesting to see that the common themes expressed in the drawings were around comfort and peace.

School libraries are essential for creating a psychologically healthy environment, particularly crucial for adolescents. They provide quietude, privacy and a sense of belonging away from the hustle and bustle of school activities. It is one of the few areas in school where students are not subject to academic pressures or evaluations, enabling them to relax and be themselves.

School libraries also offer opportunities for students to explore their interests through reading and creative activities without the fear of failure. This flexibility allows them to develop self-esteem and identity in a nurturing environment.

Joing, I. (2023). The School Library: An Important Place for Adolescents' Well-Being.: An Ethnographic Experience in a French Middle School. *Journal of Library Administration*, 63(6), 777–796.

Tarrant, A.; Roche, C. The power of the school library. *Education Journal*, [s. l.], n. 488, p. 34–35, 2022.

Library Extra-Curricular Activities:

Senior Chess Club:



New and regular players joined the first session of the Senior Chess Club on Friday 20th September at 1:30pm and were greeted by Odin Flanagan (Y9), our new student chess instructor. When asked what he wished to achieve in his new role this year, Odin commented that he hoped to teach his peers chess etiquette and organize chess tournaments on a termly basis.

Congratulations on your new position of responsibility Odin!

Odin Flanagan is a talented young chess player from Bermuda, who, along with his brother Dylan, has participated in various international chess tournaments and has been recognized for his skills from a young age.

Spotlight on:

HAUNTINGLY

good reads

FOR TEENS

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