

HITCHCOCK LIBRARY EASTER NEWSLETTER



Spring Term in the Library

As we approach the end of another busy term, we're thrilled to share some exciting highlights from our vibrant school library!

With end-of-year exams fast approaching, our library has once again transformed into a hub of academic activity. Students are utilising our extensive collection of reference materials, textbooks, and study guides to prepare diligently for their exams. We are always on hand to offer guidance and support, ensuring that students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

In addition to academic endeavors, our library continues to foster a love for reading. Students can be found borrowing books from our shelves, diving into captivating stories, or exploring new worlds and ideas through literature. We believe that cultivating a reading habit not only enhances academic skills but also nurtures creativity, empathy, and imagination. See the article on page 10 about the benefits of using the library.

March brought a special treat for some of our students as we welcomed author Leo Hunt for an inspiring visit. The author's engaging presentation sparked imaginations and ignited a passion for storytelling among our students. You can read all about it on pages 2 and 3.

Bertie, our beloved therapy dog, continues to bring joy and comfort to our school community. Bertie visits our library twice a week, providing students with a furry friend to cuddle and unwind with during busy school days.

As the two-week holiday approaches, we encourage all students to take advantage of this time to indulge in the pleasure of reading. Whether it's a thrilling adventure, a heart-warming tale, or an informative non-fiction book, use this break to immerse yourselves in the world of literature and expand your horizons.

Wishing you all a restful and enriching holiday filled with wonderful reading adventures!

The Hitchcock Library Team

March 2024

Library Services

The Reading Agency



Borrow Box



Libby



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SPRING

World Book Day

7th March 2024

Leo Hunt

On World Book Day this year we were fortunate to be able to have a visit from Leo Hunt, an author from Northumberland.

Leo started writing his first book when he was at university and that novel, *13 Days Of Midnight*, became the first in The Dunbarrow trilogy. These three books follow the tale of a young male protagonist who has been left in charge of his father's ghost collection: eight restless spirits.



Leo held an assembly for all of year 7 and 8, in which he told them about his path into writing and also how he came to write his first book.

He began his writing journey when he enrolled on a creative writing course at the University of East Anglia. The advice from his lecturer was to have a project to work on outside of the coursework; a chance to explore other ideas and writing techniques. Although it took him 5 years, this 'other project' became his first novel.



He read a couple of pages from the beginning of the book and asked the students to consider, 'What do ghosts look like?'



IT LEAPT TOWARDS HIM UPON THE INSTANT.

A few suggestions were given, one being a white sheet-like creature. Leo explained that this representation originated from Shakespeare. In productions of *Hamlet* a ghost would typically wear a suit of armour. However, this was obviously not the most practical costume to wear, and also audiences were no longer frightened by it as it was predictable. Instead, a ghost's costume was changed to a death shroud. Now with its light movement, it could move quietly and unexpectedly across the stage and was a much more sinister and menacing presence. And so the white sheet ghost came into being.

Leo highlighted some of his inspirations for his ghostly characters and cited James's 'Whistle and I'll Come to You' as a particularly spine-chilling story. Also an interest in ancient Egypt and the afterlife gave him some starting points when creating his ghost characters.





Leo introduced us to the 8 ghosts who appear in his book:

- The Vassal
- The Shepherd
- The Heretic
- The Judge
- The Oracle
- The Prisoner - who was created from his own nightmares
- The Fury
- The Innocent



There are two further books which follow Luke's story, and Leo has also written a dystopian science fiction novel: Phantom.

Illustrations: Dale Halvorsen

Student feedback

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop; I created a whole new ghost character that I had no idea was in my head. I am now writing my story daily and am really getting into it. He was genuinely very good at explaining how to create my ghost and I really loved it.

Jack P year 8

I really enjoyed the workshop and the assembly. He was very engaging and during the workshop we made some very interesting ghosts. He has inspired me to think about being an author in the future. It was a great author visit. 10/10

Joshua W year 8

Leo had a very good influence on me, especially as I am writing a book myself at the moment. His characters were really interesting and the tips were definitely useful to me.

Samuel R year 7

The workshop was engaging and fun. I learnt a lot and feel I'm more confident now with my writing. Leo was really enthusiastic, eager and entertaining and made the session not just educational but exciting too! I really enjoyed sharing the things that I'd learnt with my family.

James B year 8

The workshop was really interesting. I particularly enjoyed the part where we had to make up our own ghosts. It was great to have the chance to ask a real author questions.

Rowan B year 7

Leo Hunt Q and A

What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

Read, read, read. All the different genres.

Would you write any more sci-fi?

Probably not. It was a lot harder to do.

Who is your favourite author?

Philip Pullman and Italo Calvino.

What do you think is the hardest genre to write?

I'd have to say historical fiction. All writing is hard but with historical fiction the writing has to be really good and historically accurate.

Do you think there will be a film adaptation of your books?

There is nothing in the pipeline at the moment, but I do think about it. The money would be great but that's a conversation for the film producers.

Who is your favourite character in your books?

I think The Shepherd. And all the evil characters!

If you had to add another ghost, what would it be?

I think a Caveman ghost would be interesting.

What is your favourite thing to do other than write?

Art and illustration. I would have loved to have gone to art school.

What are you writing at the moment?

I'm currently working on a fantasy novel for adults.

Who are your influences?

Steven King and Hilary Mantel.



World Book Day 2024

YEARS 7-11

This year saw the return of dressing up for World Book Day at SHSB. We were thrilled that so many students and staff entered into the spirit of things, and we were blown away by the variety of outfits that we saw. From Jurassic park to Harry Potter, The Bible to The Gruffalo - we had all genres and age groups covered.

Prizes were awarded for originality, creativity and teamwork, and we hope that next year is even bigger and better, so get planning those costumes!



Captain Underpants



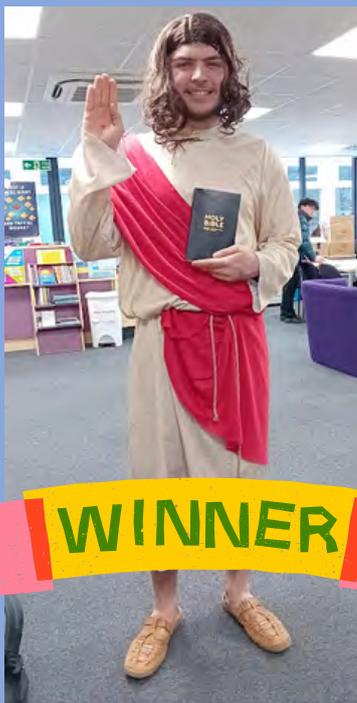
Dr Alan Grant



The Spiderverse

SIXTH FORM

RUNNERS UP



Jesus



Patrick Bateman



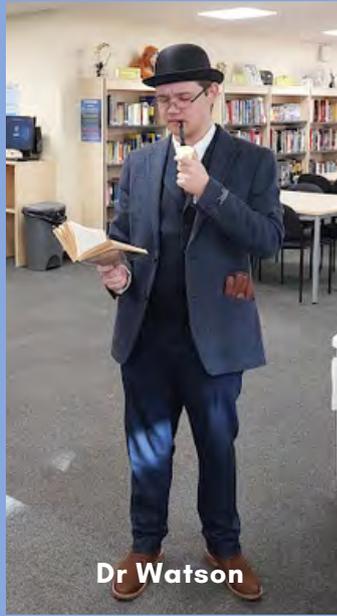
Ed Sheeran

World Book Day 2024

RUNNERS UP



Kaz Brekker



Dr Watson



Van Gogh



Willy Wonka



The Oompah Lompahs



Ron Weasley



Einstein



A Poet



Alien

STAFF



The Grufalo



Elphaba



Fagin



The yoto Carnegies

The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running book awards for children and young people. They recognise outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration that captivate readers and ignite imaginations. They are named in honour of esteemed philanthropist and lover of libraries, Andrew Carnegie.

These literary awards are unique in that they are judged solely by librarians, with respective Shadders' Choice Medals voted for by children and young people. Every spring, CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) invites reading groups in libraries, schools, homes... in fact, anywhere there are children and young people and books, to get involved with shadowing. The young people taking part are known as 'shadders' as they 'shadow' the judging process; they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist, engage in reading related activities which they can share online, and vote for their favourites to win the Shadders' Choice Awards.

Past winners include: C.S. Lewis, Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman, Sally Gardner and Elizabeth Acevedo for the Carnegie Medal for Writing; and Raymond Briggs, Shirley Hughes, Janet Ahlberg, Children's Laureates Quentin Blake, and Lauren Child for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration.

The shortlists were announced in March and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in June. 16 books have been shortlisted in total, with eight in each category for the Carnegie Medal for Writing and Carnegie Medal for Illustration

The Awards mission is: "To champion librarians to inspire and empower the next generation to create a better world through books and reading."



The 2024 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist

The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander

The Song Walker by Zillah Bethell



Away with Words by Sophie Cameron

The Boy Lost in the Maze by Joseph Coelho

Choose Love by Nicola Davies



Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher

Safiyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan

Steady for This by Nathanael Lessore



The 2024 Yoto Carnegie Medal for illustration shortlist

The Tree and the River by Aaron Becker

April's Garden by Catalina Echeverri

Lost by Mariajo Ilustrajo



The Wilderness by Steve McCarthy

To the Other Side by Erika Meza

The Midnight Panther by Poonam Mistry

The Bowerbird by Catherine Rayne



The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish by Chloe Savage



Young Writers run national writing competitions for schools, helping to turn imagination and creativity into confidence and writing ability. Each year they create meaningful writing competitions, with exciting themes and award brilliant prizes; their aim to engage and inspire the imaginations of students. Selected winners are published in a book, which gives them a great sense of pride seeing their creation proudly displayed on bookshelves around the country.

Last year we were very fortunate to have an overall winner of the competition along with around 70 other school entries published in the book.

This year, Young Writers is inviting you to write your own short ghost story, with a 250-word limit.

You might be inspired by a real place that is rumoured to be haunted, choose a supernatural being to be the star of your story, you could even tell the tale of a ghost hunter. Use atmosphere, tension and suspense to create your own spine-chilling tale, then enter it and you could be published in a real book

It is free to enter and there are prizes to win. The deadline is Tuesday 31st Dec 2024.

Scan the QR code for more details on how to enter and to find helpful advice and resources.

Let's see how many winners we can have this year.



To link with World Book Day, the Hitchcock Library ran a writing competition:

Write a winning story in **100 words or less.**

The competition was open to all year groups

1st Prize £15 Amazon voucher

2nd Prize £10 Amazon voucher

Deadline Thursday 28th March 2024

You can choose from these opening lines:

What do you pack when you only have 3 minutes to leave?

It was 2am and the phone was ringing.

I'd only met one person I'd call truly interesting.

We look forward to reading all the entries.



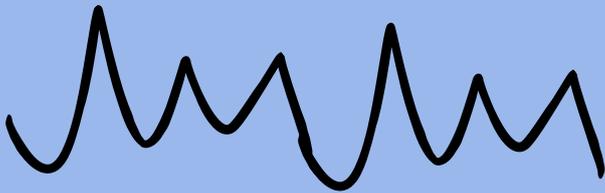
Upcoming Author Visits

Joseph is an illustrator of every genre of book imaginable, from children's Picture books, Graphic Novels, Young Fiction and Poetry, to Educational textbooks and adult fiction.

He studied animation at university, as well as having a passion for cinema and growing up as a lover of comic books; he feels that this strongly comes out in his illustrations.

When he's not illustrating books, he teaches the skills and craft he has mastered to students of all ages.

He will be coming to SHSB in June to work with different year groups.



Karl Nova is a hip hop artist, performance poet and award-winning author who also runs hip-hop flavoured creative writing workshops in schools all over the UK and abroad.

His debut collection of poetry and short stories, *Rhythm And Poetry*, won the 2018 CLiPPA Poetry Award.

Karl focuses on the joy of poetic expression which he found in the lyricism of rap music and the creativity found in spoken word slam poetry. He deals with growing up through childhood into adulthood and is often very humorous in his storytelling and reflections.

Karl will be visiting SHSB in October.



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



The mission of Action for Happiness is to help people create a happier world, with a culture that prioritises happiness and kindness, by encouraging people to prioritize the well-being of themselves and others. The organisation bases its work on scientific research and evidence in the fields of psychology and neuroscience. They collaborate with leading experts to develop resources and programs grounded in empirical evidence about what contributes to happiness and well-being. Through local groups, online forums, and social media platforms, members connect, share ideas, and support each other in their pursuit of happiness.

Action for Happiness produces monthly calendars that are designed to inspire and encourage individuals to prioritize their well-being and promote happiness in their daily lives. Each month, the calendar revolves around a specific theme related to happiness, well-being, or personal growth. The calendar provides a daily action or suggestion for individuals to incorporate into their lives. These actions are simple, achievable tasks that are intended to promote positive habits, foster connections with others, and enhance overall well-being. Examples of daily actions may include practicing mindfulness, performing acts of kindness, expressing gratitude, or engaging in physical activity.

The Hitchcock Library displays this calendar each month and adds it to the screens around school to encourage an environment of kindness, self-growth and happier living.



GREAT DREAM

Ten keys to happier living

- GIVING** Do things for others
- RELATING** Connect with people
- EXERCISING** Take care of your body
- AWARENESS** Live life mindfully
- TRYING OUT** Keep learning new things
- DIRECTION** Have goals to look forward to
- RESILIENCE** Find ways to bounce back
- EMOTIONS** Look for what's good
- ACCEPTANCE** Be comfortable with who you are
- MEANING** Be part of something bigger

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS www.actionforhappiness.org

HAPPIER • KINDER • TOGETHER

Active April 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today	2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today	3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do	4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water	5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today	6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels	7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening
8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh	9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise	10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement	11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge	12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside	13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time	14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation
15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)	16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things	17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth	18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class	19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often	20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today	21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day
22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it	23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour	24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting	25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself	26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes	27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil	28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat
29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in	30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today					

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier • Kinder • Together**

Why use the library?

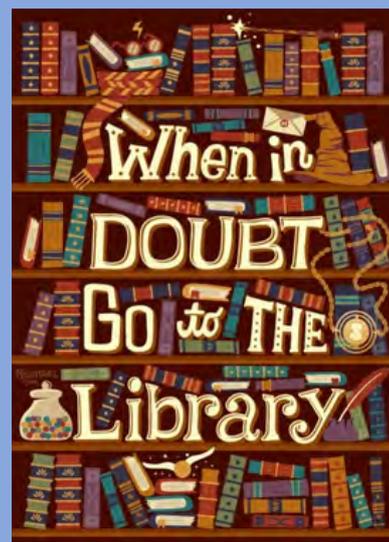
We are always a very busy and well used space here at the Hitchcock Library. What are the reasons we love our library so much?

- **Fosters a Love for Reading and Lifelong Learning:** Libraries play a crucial role in fostering a love for reading and promoting lifelong learning habits among students. We provide engaging and age-appropriate literature, creating a conducive environment for exploration, discovery, and intellectual growth.
- **Access to Diverse Resources:** Our library provides students with access to a wide range of resources, including books, digital materials, reference sources, and databases, enriching their learning experience and supporting various academic interests and pursuits.
- **Enhances Academic Performance:** Research shows that students who regularly use their school library tend to achieve higher academic performance and develop stronger critical thinking skills.
- **Supports Different Learning Styles:** The Hitchcock library offers a variety of resources and learning materials, catering to different learning styles and preferences among students. Whether that is through traditional print books, multimedia resources, or digital platforms.

Please return your books.

A reminder for Years 11, 12 and 13 - please return any library books before you go on study leave.

You will be invoiced for any books not returned if you are not continuing at SHSB.



Do you have younger brothers or family members who are thinking of taking the **11+**?

Our **Open Evening** for current **Year 5s** is taking place on **Thursday 27th June.**

The Library will be open as part of this event and we will be running quizzes, activities, freebies and of course have a display of our excellent fiction and non-fiction books.

Make sure to stop by the Hitchcock Library.



Can you guess the book from these bad and boring descriptions?

16-year-old takes a test which doesn't go her way. So she changes her name. Her parents help out when her friends are drugged.

Two ill kids go to an ill kids meeting, and then talk about their favourite author until one of them stops talking.

A really little guy has a ring, and he goes on a camping trip with his best friend.

These two kids parents hate each other; the kids fall in love and then die.

A girl loses a friend in detention, but then she makes some new friends.

Mean old man is haunted by ghosts until he changes his ways.

Amidst a bloodbath of innocent children, a girl deals with a more pressing issue; deciding which boy she likes more.

Transported to a surreal landscape, a young girl kills the first woman she meets and then teams up with three complete strangers to kill again.



WHY DID SHAKESPEARE ALWAYS WRITE WITH A PEN? BECAUSE PENCILS MADE HIM ASK "2B OR NOT 2B?"



Read A Lot!



Answers

Divergent
The Fault in the Stars
The Lord of the Rings
Romeo and Juliet
One Of Us Is Lying
A Christmas Carol
The Hunger Games
The Wizard Of Oz

WANT TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Have you read a book you just want to tell everyone about?

Is there a screen adaptation of a book you think everybody should watch?

Have you discovered the best hobby you think everyone should participate in?

Do you want to tell everyone the best things about the Hitchcock Library?

Whatever you choose to write about, send your article, in document form including your name and form, to us at

jbe@shsb.org, and you could find your work in the next newsletter.

