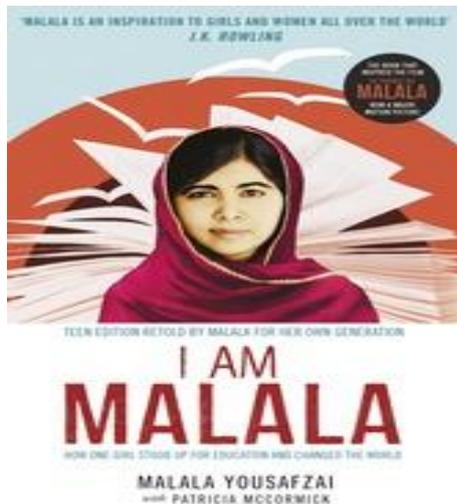


Literacy News

October 2016



Welcome to the **Autumn** edition of our Key Stage 3 Literacy Newsletter. Year 8 pupils have now settled into Junior school and are enjoying many **literacy experiences** in the classroom. This newsletter will help to **inform** you of your daughter's literacy experiences in school and **encourage** you to work with us to inspire achievement in literacy and communication.



*Ask your daughter about **Book -Buzz!***

Book Buzz is an **exciting programme** which allows Year 8 and 9 pupils to select and receive a book to read from a list of options, including the one featured in the picture above. Throughout the year, as well as reading their novel independently, girls will take part in a range of activities to create a **'buzz' about reading**. Watch this space for more details over the next few months...

Cosy Corner

Here are some **activities** that you could do as a family to help support your daughter's talking and listening:

- Go and visit someone you haven't seen in a while to develop conversation skills;
- Watch or listen to a debate on TV or the radio, then have your own discussion about the topics raised;
- Try to spot regional speech variations when you are out and about and discuss their effect and impact.

Whole-school Literacy Focus

This year's main focus for Literacy development is 'better talking; better writing'. Following on from our focus last year on 'sensible sentences' and 'proper punctuation', we hope to encourage every pupil in school to become **more aware of speaking appropriately in different situations**.

Research suggests that talking and listening skills have a **direct impact on writing ability**, which obviously impacts examination success, so we would encourage you to **discuss your daughter's learning and homework activities with her as much as possible**.

In school we hope to facilitate **more speaking and listening activities across the curriculum**, with clear expectations about appropriate language and vocabulary for different situations and tasks.

This month's feature article is about the benefits of attending Homework Club ... read on to find out more!

Homework Club - building Literacy Skills



WHERE - The Homework Club is held in the **Learning Café on the Richmond school site.**

WHEN - **Monday to Thursday from 3.10 - 4.10pm**

It offers your child learning opportunities in a secure, supportive and friendly learning environment.

As a drop-in centre, pupils are welcome to attend to suit their individual needs and schedules. Pupils can access support from the team of **6th form mentors**, either on an individual or group basis. The mentors have knowledge of many subjects and offer support with homework, revision and literacy skills. Pupils can identify areas of difficulty and request mentors for support.

Within the Homework Club pupils can use iPads for research or use the computer suite, under the guidance of support staff and mentors, to complete IT based homework

Literacy skills are nurtured by **teaching staff**; a **Literacy Corner** will be available to accommodate pupils who wish to avail of help independently, while staff and mentors will work on literacy tasks and **extension activities to accommodate individual needs.**

Numeracy support is also available each Monday and there are numeracy resources for independent study.

The Homework Club offers pupils an opportunity to build **solid foundations** in all subjects ensuring that the pupils can build on their personal best moving forward into their GCSE studies.

We always welcome new pupils along and would love you to encourage your daughter to attend!



And finally...

*We are very keen to continue **working closely with parents** this year and to develop our Literacy provision for all pupils, in **partnership with you**. If you have any comments on how we can work together even more effectively, or indeed if you have any questions or suggestions about Literacy, please get in touch with Mrs Beaney, Literacy Co-Ordinator.*