

Our Lady's Catholic High School Reading Newsletter - Spring 2021



Welcome to the 'OLCHS Reading Newsletter'. Each term, we aim to bring you all things READING! Each newsletter will include book recommendations from staff members and fellow pupils, information on upcoming events and top tips for pupils (and parents!) looking to improve their reading skills. We might even throw in some competitions too!

NEWS

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. Despite this year's celebrations being slightly different, we still had a wonderful day celebrating all things reading! Throughout the day, teachers from all subjects shared a variety of reading materials that linked to their subject areas. This not only reiterated the importance of reading to the pupils, but it reminded them how reading can be enjoyed in all subjects!

Well done to all the pupils who entered the mask making competition - there were some wonderful entries! Congratulations to our winners!

Y7 winners - Nicola Zamorowska, Seb Cookson, Esther McDonald-Romero and Rebecca Brown.

Y8 winners - Catriona Duffy, Christopher Holland-Bass, Jasveer Singh, and Jacek Klimaszewski.

Y9 winners - Sean Wilton and Angelika Smith.

A big well done to our 'Shelfie' winners too; Kaytlan Rishton, Nicola Zamorowska, Jenna Rowley, Jasmine Swann, Sam Singh, Lucie Stringer, Ummar-Ali Mal and Mrs Stopyra. If you haven't managed to complete the quiz yet, follow the link at the bottom of the page. BOO points will be awarded to all pupils who enter!

TOP TIP FOR PARENTS

Look for reading materials related to your family history or culture. As children get older and begin to think about their own identities, they often become more interested in their backgrounds. This interest can contribute to a healthy sense of pride in their heritage and culture, and reading is a great way for your teen to explore those interests.

Information will be available in the LRC, on the Internet, and maybe even in your attic!

GREAT BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY Y11 PUPILS

- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee recommended by our Head Boy, Ummar-Ali Mal
- His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman recommended by our Head Girl, Kate Moir.
- The Vanishing Half By Brit Bennett recommended by one of our Public Speaking Champions, Jasmine Dover. (Only suitable for KS4 pupils.)

CAN YOU MATCH THE 'SHELFIE' TO THE TEACHER?

How well do you know your teachers? Follow the link below and have a go at matching the 'shelfie' to the teacher. If you get above 80%, you will be awarded two BOO points!

Follow the link below to be in with a chance!

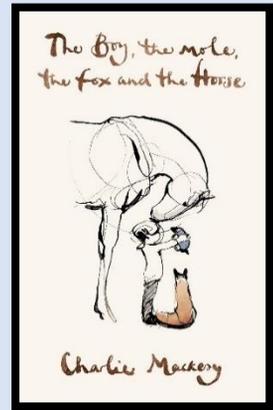
<https://forms.gle/KdE4H6P9yfhQSmtf7>

OLCHS RECOMMENDED READS

'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy

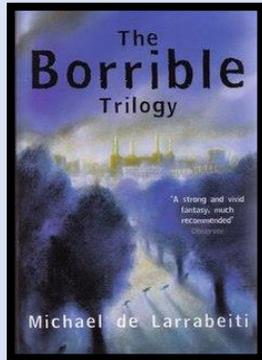
I think that this book, which is all about love, friendship and kindness, is both a comforting and inspiring read during these difficult times.

I was given it by a close friend, whose son tragically died in April 2020, aged just 22. She gave out twenty copies of the book, in memory of his kindness and she asked for it to be shared with others. Both beautifully written and exquisitely illustrated, it will appeal to readers of all ages. Everyone I have shown it to has gone out and bought it for either themselves or others



AN ENJOYABLE READ FOR ALL PUPILS, STAFF AND PARENTS.

Recommended by Mrs Ainsworth

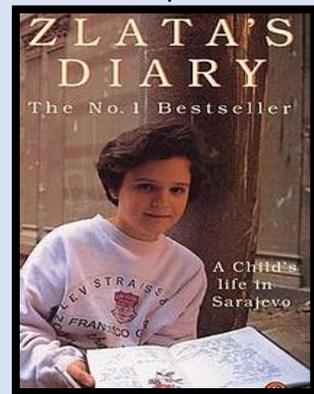


'The Borribles' by Michael De Larrabeiti

This trilogy is about a group of children that have run away from home and live in the sewers of London in gangs. Each character is fully developed and is an integral part of the group that you learn to love and can't wait to see what trouble they get into whether it is escaping the police, stealing from the bank or fighting rival gangs.

READ IF YOU ENJOY: FANTASY

Recommended by Mr Power



'Zlata's Diary' by Zlata Filipovic

Zlata's was born in 1980 in Sarajevo. The book is her diary about her life during the Bosnian war 1991-1993. A bit like Anne Frank's diary - another childhood favourite of mine! Zlata survived the war and her family escaped to Paris.

READ IF YOU ENJOYED 'ANNE FRANK'S DIARY' OR LIKE HISTORICAL TEXTS

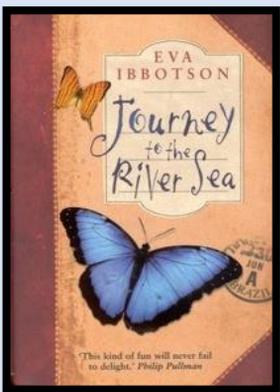
Recommended by Mrs Crossley

'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson

This is one of the first books I remember not being able to put down as a teenager! This book is set in 1910 and Maia, orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by a mysterious governess who has her own reasons for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences

READ IF YOU LIKE: ADVENTURE

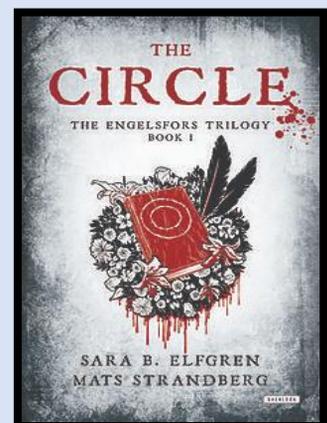
Recommended by Miss Westray



'The Circle' by Sara B Elfgren and Mats Strandberg

I read all 3 books in Swedish a few years ago and they are available in English and was made into a film in 2015. It takes place in a small town in Sweden that is surrounded by dark forests where people easily get lost. Six girls, all 16 years old, have just started their A level course and a suspected suicide happens. They don't really have anything in common, but this suicide brings them all together and they find out that they are witches and they must work together to survive. This is not normally my cup of tea, but it was exciting from page 1 and I could not put it down

Recommended by Mrs Soderberg





BENEFITS OF READING OUTSIDE



Just like the body needs exercise, the mind needs reading to be healthy. By reading for school or for pleasure, you're giving your mind the necessary exercise it needs. When you can, make it fun by going outside with a good book or newspaper - especially as we are starting to get some lovely weather! Here are our top 9 benefits for reading outside:

1. Develop your mind.

Studies have shown that by reading regularly, the brain structure changes and becomes more developed. Even if you're not a natural reader, you can train yourself to become better with daily practice!

2. Benefit from the sunshine vitamin.

When exposed to the sun, your body naturally produces vitamin D, a.k.a the sunshine vitamin. It has many great benefits such as helping to develop a healthy immune system. Remember to wear your sun cream though!

3. Boost your memory.

Studies show that reading gives your mind a better workout than watching images or listening to a speech or presentation.

4. Enhance your vocabulary.

The more you read, the more words you're exposed to. Expanding your vocabulary is a great way to enhance your communication skills — a plus in the professional world.

5. Sharpen your reading and writing skills.

Reading and writing go hand-in-hand. When you read well-written work, your writing also improves.

6. Lengthen your concentration.

In our digital age, studies show that our attention spans have shortened. Our easy access to our mobile devices divides our attention between multiple tasks, which can reduce our productivity and create stress. However, when reading, our focus is on one sole thing. Grab a book, sit outside, and read for a few minutes each day. You'll see a difference in your ability to concentrate and focus.

7. Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

As you read, you'll use critical thinking and analytical skills to analyse character development, plot, if it was a well-written piece, etc. This same skill applies in life. Being able to figure out how to solve problems is an essential life skill that can be developed from reading.

8. Widen your imagination.

As you read, your mind will create imagery in great detail that will enhance your imagination and worldview.

9. Lower your stress.

Taking a few minutes each day to get outside and read gives your mind a break from the hustle and bustle of life. Let your mind wander into a good story while you relax and ease tension.

