



Read On!

It has been a delight to discover the reading habits of our new Year 7 students and we have been busy in the library taking their free Bookbuzz book orders. I have featured some of the titles that have proved popular with students. I have also shared information about the Hazelwick Book Group, Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering opportunities, the library stationery price list, and the answers to the frequently asked questions about the library. I have also reviewed my favourite reads of the summer holiday.



Bookbuzz 2023

Our Year 7 students have been busy in their Reading lessons; in addition to Library inductions, they have been selecting their free books from the selection of titles from the BookTrust's Bookbuzz initiative. With sixteen books to choose from, I thought I would feature some of the books that have proved popular with students.



Our Sister, Again by Sophie Cameron

This science fiction novel has proved very popular with students who have been attracted by the AI theme. Central character Isla and her family are grieving the death of her sister Flora. The family are invited to participate in a top-secret trial. An AI robot version of Flora has been created using her digital footprint. Not all of the island community are comfortable with the replica Flora and threats are made. Isla notices that her 'sister' is becoming more secretive. Can Isla protect her sister and does the community need protection from Flora?

AR Level: 5.2



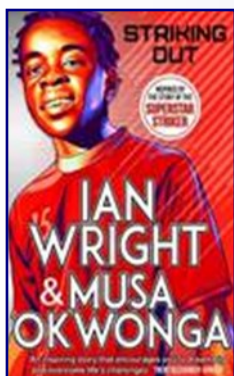
Kay's Marvellous Medicine by Adam Kay

This title was longlisted for the 2022 British Book Awards in the Children's Non-Fiction category and is very similar to the 'Horrible Histories' series and is a perfect leisure read for those that are not squeamish! Adam Kay combines the history of diseases and cures with great humour and historical fact.

This book has yet to be added to the Accelerated Reader programme.



Read On Continued....



Striking Out by Ian Wright and Musa Okwonga

Thirteen-year-old Jerome Jackson has a difficult home life and cannot see how his dreams of becoming a professional footballer can ever be realised. Jerome's life changes when he meets a famous footballer who mentors him. This is a rags-to-riches story, with an emphasis on never giving up on your dreams. Please note that Jerome and his mother both experience verbal abuse from his mother's new partner. The police become involved when the partner smashes up their home.

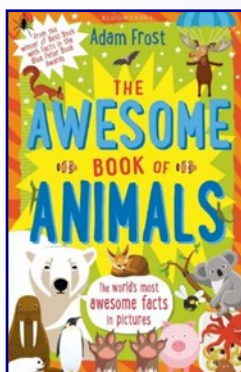
AR LEVEL: 4.6



Dread Wood by Jennifer Killick

This title is the first book in Killick's horror series and a popular one with Hazelwick students who enjoy the scary elements, the gripping adventure, and relatable central characters. Angelo, Gustav, and Hallie think that having a school detention on a Saturday is the worst thing that can happen to them. Not only does their day get worse, but it also gets dangerous! A creature is lurking in the shadows and the children must work as a team if they are to survive.

AR LEVEL 4.9



The Awesome Book of Animals by Adam Frost

A bright and colourful information book about animal facts. This will make an excellent leisure read as the layout is perfect for browsing. The quirky illustrations add to the book's appeal, and I will be recommending this book to our reluctant readers.

This book has yet to be added to the Accelerated Reader programme.

The full list of titles can be found by clicking on the link below and a detailed review is given for each book. Booktrust also provides the reading and interest age for each title, with a list of keywords for the novel's themes. They also list titles on a similar theme in the 'More books like this' section at the bottom of the page.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/students/bookbuzz-books/>

Booktrust also provides parents/carers with reading lists, reading tips and advice and their Bookfinder by using the link below:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/>



Read On Continued....

Hazelwick Book Group

The Hazelwick Book Group is open to students in any year group and the monthly meetings take place in the library after school. We have a book-related discussion theme for each meeting and students love to debate the books they have been reading and also make book recommendations. The group is free, and refreshments are provided, no prior booking is necessary. Please drop into the library for the dates and themes list.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteering

Several students complete the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh Award in the library by shelf tidying and returning books to their correct places on the shelves. Most students choose to volunteer for an hour a week after school. Volunteering operates on a first come, first served basis and we currently have a few places remaining. Some students also complete their skills element by reading in the library. If you are interested, please see Mrs Thornton for further information.

Stationery

The library has a range of stationery items for students to purchase and the updated price list is displayed in the library. Please note that the library can only accept payment by cash and prices may change throughout the academic year.

Prices for Sept 2023

Pens (black, blue and green)	10p
Pencils	10p
Art pencils (2B)	30p
15cm rulers	10p
30cm rulers	15p
Erasers	10p
Pencil sharpeners (metal)	20p
Pencil sharpeners (plastic)	20p
12 coloured pencils	£1.40
Glue sticks (Pritt)	95p
Glue sticks (non-Pritt)	70p
Maths sets	£1.20
Scientific calculators	£8.70
Exam pencil cases	95p



Read On Continued....

Hazelwick School Library FAQs

I thought parents/carers may find it useful to have a refresher about all things Hazelwick School Library and I have included the answers to our frequently asked questions.

Question 1: How many books can a student borrow and how long can they be borrowed for?

Students can borrow up to a maximum of six books which are issued for three weeks.

Question 2: Can the loan period be extended?

There are two ways to renew library books, either in person with library staff or by emailing the library. The books will be renewed for a further three weeks, unless the book has been reserved by another student.

Question 3: Are fines charged for overdue library books?

Fines are never charged for overdue library books. The only charge that may be made is for the replacement cost of lost or damaged books. Parents/carers will be emailed via Wisepay, the school payment system, with the cost details. Overdue reminders will be sent to students via their Form Tutors and the Head of Year teams notified when books become very overdue.

Question 4: My son/daughter has mislaid a library book, what should they do?

Please notify the library staff as soon as possible and we will renew the book for a further three weeks. Library books are usually found after this time but if the book is lost, the replacement cost may be charged.

Question 5: My son/daughter cannot find the book they are looking for in the library, can you help?

The book may be on loan to another student so we would advise students to contact the library staff so that a book reservation can be made on the library computer system. If the book is not held in the library, students are invited to complete a book suggestion form and the librarian will try to order the book.

Please check out the 'Recommended Reads' section of the library webpages for a selection of booklists and the link to the Hazelwick Reads Twitter account:

<https://www.hazelwick.org/teaching-and-learning/library>

<https://twitter.com/hazelwickreads>

Library Contact Details:

The library is staffed by Chartered Librarian Mrs Thornton and Library Assistant Mrs Bridgman.

Contact email: library@hazelwick.org.uk

Telephone: 01293 403344 ext:2339

Library Opening Hours: 8.00am to 4.00pm

Mrs Thornton BA (Hons) MCLIP
School Librarian

Read On Continued....

Guest Reviewer

Our guest reviewer this month is Mrs Thornton.

Book Titles

The Last Kingdom by Bernard Cornwell

Aethelflaed The Lady of the Mercians by Tim Clarkson



What do I think about the books?

One of the joys of reading historical fiction is being introduced to a character that you discover was based on historical fact. I have always enjoyed reading Bernard Cornwell's historical fiction titles, having read the 'Warlord Chronicles' about King Arthur. Over the holidays, I finally finished the last book, book thirteen, in the 'Last Kingdom' series. This series is set during the ninth and tenth centuries when Danish Vikings had invaded and occupied three of England's four kingdoms. I became fascinated by one the characters in the series: Aethelflaed. I was delighted to discover that [Aethelflaed](#) was not a fictional character but was the daughter of King Alfred and did rule the Mercians. In Tim Clarkson's book, the historian explains the family links between the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia and how Aethelflaed came to rule Mercia.

In a time period dominated by men, I think anyone with an interest in Medieval history, and the role of women in history will find this a fascinating read. Some critics have pointed out that only a third of the book is truly given to the life of Aethelflaed, so the title is misleading, but I think understanding the context of the time period and her family was important to her story and this didn't bother me. Clarkson's book is well researched, and I thought the way the sections were divided worked. I learnt about the different versions of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and I especially enjoyed the section where the author discusses Aethelflaed's portrayal in fiction. I also think fans of the television series 'The Last Kingdom' that are based on Cornwell's series of books with the same name will find this fascinating. Cornwell certainly does his historical research too! I have shared the link to Cornwell's list of many historical book series and Tim Clarkson's blog.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/c/bernard-cornwell/>

<https://senchus.wordpress.com/about/>

Keep reading!

Mrs Thornton

