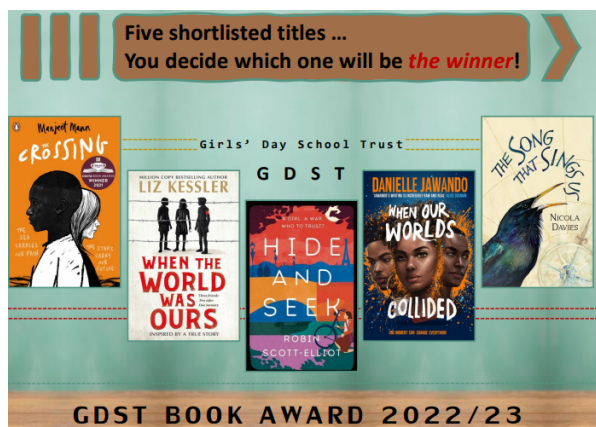


Welcome to our first edition of our Reading Newsletter at BHSA. Here you will find information about what has been happening at BHSA over the last term and the exciting things that we have planned for the next term.

GDST Book Award



Coordinated by Mrs Doran, the GDST librarians have chosen five books for the GDST Book Award 2022/23. Students may have seen these books promoted on our TV screens around our school as a 'recommended read' each week.

All students are encouraged to read the shortlist between December and April. In May, there will be the chance for all students across the GDST to vote for the winning title. Announcements about the winner will be made in June.

Next term we will launch our GDST Book Award pin badge design competition. Students will have the opportunity to design their own pin badge in conjunction with the GDST Book Award. The winning design will be created into a pin badge, given to students who read all five books on the GDST Book Award shortlist. Look out for more information from Mrs Doran in January.

Author Visit

In November, we had the pleasure of a visit from Natasha Hastings. Natasha Hastings was chosen to participate in *The London's Emerging Writers Programme* in 2019 and started developing the story, *The Frost Fair*, while studying History at Cambridge University, where her focus was on gender and mental illness.

During her visit, Natasha spoke about her recent debut *The Miraculous Sweetmakers: The Frost Fair*, and her aspirations on reading and writing. She provided students from Year 4 to Year with an inspiring and interactive session. Many students purchased her book on the day and had the opportunity to get it signed by Natasha herself.



Photo credit: @LinghamsBooks on Twitter

Natasha said on Twitter 'Thank you so much to the two schools who had me over today, and to the wonderful @LinghamsBooks for being so supportive! I'm in love with Rita the Reading Dog!'

What is the novel about?

This amazing and captivating novel is about a magical frost fair and the lasting power of friendship. During the Great Frost of 1683, a family tragedy turns Thomasina's world upside down and she is drawn to a mysterious conjuror and the enchanted frost fair. But soon the world of Father Winter threatens to claim everything she holds dear. Will they be able to solve the magical mysteries that surround them?

Students can find copies of this new, exciting novel in our school library.



Photo credit: Google Images

National Poetry Day

In October, students in KS3 were invited to take part in a poetry competition whereby they needed to write a poem about this year's theme, the environment. There were some fantastic poems written by the students and we are looking forward to seeing more amazing entries next year.

Black History Month

In October, there was a library display of books written by and starring Black characters to celebrate Black History Month. These books were discussed during library lessons and students were encouraged to borrow these from the library.

Halloween activities in the library

During the month of October, Year 8 and 9 read Julian Sedgwick's 'Tsunami Girl' chapter 3, Ghost in the Cab during reading lessons. The students learn the traditional Japanese yokai (monsters/ ghosts) creatures which are mentioned in the book. This widened the students' understanding of Japanese macabre.

Library lessons in December

This half term students will sample a variety of books suitable for the holiday season. This will enable students to get a flavour of a range of books, encouraging them to try something different.

What will your next book be?

Mrs Doran, our school librarian, has compiled a list of feel-good reads for the holidays:



KS3 Reading Intervention:

Next term our reading intervention programme, Bedrock Learning, will be launched to support students across KS3. Please see our reading page on our website for more information about Bedrock Learning.