

Literacy and Kingsdale Foundation School Libraries

The key literacy aims of Kingsdale Foundation School are:

- To enable our students to develop into powerful communicators.
- To ensure our students have the reading, writing and speaking & listening skills needed to access the school curriculum.
- To improve the technical aspects of students' writing, e.g. spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- To promote wide reading, reading for enjoyment and critical reading.
- To develop teachers' knowledge and understanding of the assessment and teaching of literacy skills.
- To promote a consistent approach to literacy across the school (Professional Teachers' Standards 2011: *demonstrate an understanding of and take responsibility for promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject*).

Our priorities for 2019-2020 are:

- To promote the reading and study of fiction and non-fiction texts across the curriculum.
- To develop literacy competence of students to improve their chances of success
- To develop cultural capital and raise the profile of literacy across the school through a broad range of literacy enrichment opportunities in the curriculum.
- To share ideas and best practice on how a literacy focus can be embedded in lessons.
- To embed the Accelerated Reader Programme in Y7 and then continue the AR programme into Y8 for this YG.

Kingsdale Libraries (Upper School Library and Lower School Library)

Our libraries aim to encourage a love for reading among students through a range of fiction and non-fiction literature, including revision material, careers corner and published work of students. Libraries are open from 8.00am till 4.00pm, whilst some students also attend the homework club in Upper School Library from 4.00pm till 5.15pm.

Author Events and Book Promotions

Students have opportunities to meet and even have reading/ writing workshops with authors. Lucy Van Smitz, Ali Sparkes, Christopher Paolini, Frances Hardringe and Chris Bradford are some of the authors who recently met with our students to talk about the art of creative writing.

A few other reading and book promotion initiatives include:

- Wider Reading Club for Y12/13
- Book Club- Carnegie Book Award reading Club and Southwark Book Award Reading Club
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Book of the Week – recommended by students, parents, staff
- Book Bus from Browns Publication
- Manga Club (visited Embassy of Japan in Autumn Term)

World Book Day

Kingsdale is a riot of colour on World Book Day, as staff and students dress up as their favourite literary characters. Dracula, King Lear and Don Quixote rub shoulders with Katniss Everdeen and Gangsta Granny, as everyone enjoy guessing identities and admiring costumes. Students also discuss books with teachers in their English lessons, while during lunch the library is filled with students making Dada poetry and recommending their favourite books to others. All in all, World Book Day is a really great day to remember the importance of books, and to encourage everyone to expand their literary horizons at Kingsdale.

Reading Lessons and Literacy Support Programmes

The curriculum for Key Stage 3 includes reading lessons for Year 7 and Writing 'Challenge Lessons' for Year 8 to further improve the focus on improving literacy. This brings a new structure to 25% of the taught lessons that students receive, with much more structure for building reading culture in Year 7 (including a focus on both challenging strong readers and engaging reluctant readers), and a switch of focus to the explicit teaching of practical literacy skills for Year 8. Literacy is also taught in Form time and effective literacy resources are developed and distributed to form tutors to use during the Form time 'Literacy' sessions.

Literacy Support Programmes are in place to support identified students who struggle with reading. These programme include reading out loud in small groups and/or 1:1 sessions, followed by engaging comprehension exercises. It is based on the research that reading out loud improves reading age, confidence and cognitive abilities.

Accelerated Reader Programme

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them.

We will give you more information once students have all been given their login details after half term, but over half term you might like to read one of the suggested books below. They cover a range of reading abilities and all have AR quizzes. You can also visit the AR BookFinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and, in general, make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.

Recommended fiction for Year 7 (mixture of challenge)

1. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*: Rowling, J.K.
2. *The Hunger Games*: Collins, Suzanne

3. *Wonder*: Palacio, R.J.
4. *The Maze Runner*: Dashner, James
5. *Everything, Everything*: Yoon, Nicola
6. *Divergent*: Roth, Veronica
7. *Corpses and Skeletons: The Science of Forensic Anthropology*: Shone, Rob
8. *Einstein Anderson, Science Sleuth*: Simon, Seymour
9. *Frankenstein*: Shelley, Mary
10. *Northern Lights/The Golden Compass*: Pullman, Philip

Recommended non-fiction for Y7s (mixture of challenge)

1. *The Pigman & Me*, Author: Paul Zindel
2. *Woodson*, Author: Gary Paulsen
3. *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Author: Roald Dahl
4. *The Secret Family*, Author: David Bodanis
5. *The Great Train Robbery*, Author: Michael Crichton

These books all have an AR quiz and remember you can check your books at home here:
<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

(Detailed reading lists are available in the English Curriculum.)

All students in Year 7 have been working really hard to complete quizzes on the new Accelerated Reader programme. The English department have seen a dramatic increase in students' reading engagement as a result. We recognise the achievements of our readers in the following categories.

1. Top word count
2. Top number of quizzes
3. Top number of points
4. Most progress
5. Highest pass rate

Writing and SPAG initiatives

We have Word of the Week and Literacy Focus of the Week, which is integrated in the teaching and learning across the curriculum. Students have the opportunities to take part in writing competitions like Poetry Escape, Mission Catastrophe, Diary competition and other contests. Mission Catastrophe competition winners are published in an anthology book available to browse in the library. Certificates and book vouchers are given to the winners chosen by the school librarians. Students' work is regularly published as anthology of poems as well as in form of a novel.

Students who struggle in writing attend Intervention groups after school, whilst several are keen participants in our Creative Writing Clubs run by the English department.

Library Helpers and trainings

Our student librarians undergo and receive librarian induction and training and have a chance to perform librarians duties.

Library prefects are present in the library every lunchtime. They are trained and have had the chance to learn about the library environment. They are using Heritage Programme, helping other students to borrow or return books and help with shelving and keeping the overall order in the library. They are awarded achievement points for their attendance and eagerness to help.

Our student librarians recently visited inter-school library training session at Elmgreen School in the neighbourhood.

Literacy Training for all Staff

INSETs on practical literacy strategies, with ideas and research borrowed from Education Endowment Fund, have been delivered to all staff, including Newly Qualified teachers. Half Termly meetings are held with the Literacy Champions from all departments and this creates a network to share research on literacy and work on initiatives to develop literacy in all subject curriculum areas, encouraging colleagues to trial literacy strategies in their own departments.

Debate Club and Model United Nations

Kingsdale offers Debate Club to students. The recent highlight of the club was preparation and participation in Model United Nations.

While in principle the United Nations sounds like a simple concept – a supra-national body that allows states to work collectively for the benefit of humanity – the reality is messy, confusing, fatally mired in the quicksand of procedural constraints, arcane etiquette, and bureaucratic jargon.

Nonetheless, Kingsdale's two-day trip to the Model UN held recently was immensely entertaining – a flurry of resolutions, voting blocks, moderated and unmoderated caucuses, amendments, motions, and operative clauses. Competing alongside twenty-five other schools from London and beyond, our seventeen students were variously assigned roles as France, Fiji, Guinea Bissau and, curiously, the Ugandan Minister of Defence. Along the way, Fiji entered the fray when Iraq inexplicably tried to join forces with the USA ('Nonsense,' they cried. 'Baffling nonsense!'), France struggled to deal with the aftermath of Boko Haram's bombing campaign in central London, and Uganda was violently seized by Rwanda. All good clean fun.

Ultimately, the trip was a great chance for some of Kingsdale's elite debaters to go toe-to-toe with the best of their cohort from around the city, students who take the world seriously and are prepared to argue over every scrap of it. No doubt we'll be back again next year to bicker and shout as some other minor South Pacific island nation or West African minnow. Did you know, the world's richest man makes more in a day than Guinea Bissau does in a year? Scandalous.