

Transition and KS3 INSET

STOP PRESS!

Please keep Friday March 22nd free for our Inset: **Motivating Readers.**

We will be meeting at the Norwich Diocesan Offices, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5ES.

It's just off the A47 at Easton so should be fairly central for everyone. The full programme is yet to be finalised. We hope it will appeal to staff who look after transition as well as literacy and English, so bring a charabang!

Network meeting at UEA Library

By request we have arranged a specially tailored tour of the library at UEA on **Wednesday 27th Feb at 16.30-17:45**. There will also be 10 minute taster sessions to include "Are your students ready for University?" and "Plagiarism and collusion". Please circulate this to anyone on your staff who might be interested. This meeting is free for our customers, but you must let us know names and contact details if you are coming by Mon 25th Feb please.

Kids Lit Quiz

In November the SLS organised the Norfolk Heat of the Kids Lit Quiz, kindly hosted by CNS, last year's Norfolk heat winners.

Twenty five teams from sixteen schools took part with the added excitement of an author team comprising Mark Robson, Alexander Gordon Smith, David Bedford and Gail Gallacher. During the interval Waterstones provided a book stall and students enjoyed meeting the authors as they got their books signed.

The winning team was Thetford Grammar (A), with Thorpe St Andrew (A) second and Sheringham High third.

Thetford Grammar went on to the UK final in Coventry which was won by Cockermouth School who will now go on to the World Final in Durban, S Africa.

Look out for an email in June, inviting you to express your interest in entering a team for 2013. The provisional date is late November and we are hoping to hold the event at UEA this year. The authors are all set to join us again too!



A poetry competition for secondary schools

7 January to 29 March 2013

The National Literacy Trust has joined forces with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) to provide teachers and librarians with a competition and resources to engage young people in writing, and to teach them about copyright and the importance of protecting their own and others' creativity.

Research has shown that there is a relationship between attitudes towards writing and writing attainment; 75% of young people believe that to be a good writer means you have to enjoy writing but less than 50% of young people say that they enjoy writing.

Write On aims to put the enjoyment factor back into writing by using an engaging form of writing—poetry—and by focusing on a topic that is sure to be interesting. Click on the link http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_teaching/competitions/write_on for details.



Norfolk School Library Service—01603 222265
Email: school.library.service@norfolk.gov.uk

Author Visits: Darren Shan visit to Old Buckenham High

There was excitement in the air when we visited Old Buckenham High School in September on the day of Darren Shan's visit. Students were milling around the library at lunchtime, peeping through the window to see if they could catch a glimpse of the famous author. Any male visitor sparked rumours flying round!

Finally, Darren Shan arrived, students were shepherded to the hall, along with groups of pupils from eight other visiting local high schools and the author took to the stage. Darren had the audience of Y7 & 8's engaged throughout as he read out gory sections from his new novel Zom-B. Students then asked questions and I was really impressed that he considered the merit of each question and took the time to answer thoroughly.

Back in the library, students queued patiently to get their books autographed. Again, Darren gave freely of his time, writing messages as well as signing and chatting about tips for writing. Andrea Hassan, librarian at Old Buckenham, organised the visit in conjunction with Waterstones, supported for Norfolk SLS and was really pleased at the success of the event.



Photo Supplied by Old Buckenham High School

New SLS Service: Author Visits!

Please let us know if you are interested in having **SLS help you organise Author visits to your school**. We are in conversation with **Alexander Gordon Smith**, who came to the Kid's Lit Quiz and is author of the popular '**Escape from Furnace**' series and he is available! SLS would act as broker, and he could be shared between 2 schools for a morning and afternoon session, or go to a central venue as happened at Old Buckenham High.

To make the most of the opportunity you would need to be prepared to do some preparatory work with students and to have a bookshop on the day.

Alexander Gordon Smith says "Yes, I would love to work with some local schools, and what you have suggested sounds absolutely great. I often do events ... with a big talk to the whole school / year group, followed by some workshops for smaller groups. The talks and workshops are really aimed at the idea of raising aspirations, and letting the students know that they can do anything they want to if they put their mind to it."

Why not utilise the pupil premium funding to fund this, targeting groups of students for the workshops.

The charge would be 3 tokens for a half day visit. Please let us know if you're interested.

Competitions!

Take 3 Storyboard competition

A competition is being held in the Public Libraries during the Great Big Read promotion which asks young people to produce a storyboard of 3 scenes. The storyboard should tell the story of their favourite book as if it were to be made into a film. The competition will be open to those aged 11-19 years old and 10 selected entrants will be invited to attend a day workshop with BBC Voices on the 3rd April 2013. Entry forms will be available from Norfolk Libraries.

Chris Evans BBC Radio 2 500 Words Competition

It's that time of year again!

There are plenty of great resources here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/500words/2012/> to help inspire your students write an amazing story for this year's competition. The 500 words Resources pack is well worth a look too, as are some of the winning stories from last year. Good luck!

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Mood Boosting books

Do your students need a bit of extra care at the start of this term? It's a tough time for lots of people. Have a look at this booklist of Mood Boosting books from the public library

BOOST YOUR MOOD WITH A RECOMMENDED READ

Young people in reading groups around the country have read and selected these mood-boosting books. Why not try one?

Artichoke Hearts

Sita Brahmachari

Being Billy

Phil Earle

Big Nate on a Roll

Lincoln Peirce

Boys Don't Cry

Malorie Blackman

"It brings you to the right mood"

Kirsten from South Tyneside on *Big Nate on a Roll* by Lincoln Peirce

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul

Edited by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberley Kirberger

Goodnight Mister Tom

Michelle Magorian

Holes

Louis Sachar

Just Listen

Sarah Dessen

"Because even though it is not a 'happy' book, it shows that stressful times can be worked through"

A reader from Wigan on *Boys Don't Cry* by Malorie Blackman

Lia's Guide to Winning the Lottery

Keren David

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment

James Patterson

No Passengers Beyond This Point

Gennifer Choldenko

Nobody's Girl

Sarra Manning

"It was sheer escapism; you wish it was you... This is the best book I've ever read in my life!"

A reader from Wiltshire on *The Recruit* by Robert Muchamore

Numbers

Rachel Ward

The Recruit

Robert Muchamore

The Secret Countess

Eva Ibbotson

The Sky is Everywhere

Jandy Nelson

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

You might also like to try...

Howl's Moving Castle

Diana Wynne Jones

Millions

Frank Cottrell Boyce

My Name is Mina

David Almond

Read a mood-boosting book?

- Tweet your suggestions using #moodboosting
- Email moodboosting@readingagency.org.uk with the title and short comment
- Read what people thought of this list, and leave your own comments at www.readinggroups.org/moodboosting

For practical advice about coping with emotional health issues go to bbc.co.uk/health

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