

# High-Lights

News from your **Education Library Service**

January 2017

## Farewell from some of our ELS team!

Sadly, as we move into the New Year, we are saying goodbye to not just *one* member of staff but *two*! Both Kirsten Francis, our manager, and Gail Arnold, Team Librarian, are moving on, Kirsten in the NHS with the Healthy Child Programme and Gail nearer home. We will really miss them and wish them both all the very best in their future roles. We will be a small team until new staff are appointed – watch this space!

**Gail** says: “ *After seven years at ELS I’m moving on to pastures new. It’s been a very varied role and I’ve had the opportunity to read widely, learn, try out new ideas and travel all over Norfolk – going to work on the Reedham ferry one morning was a highlight! It has been lovely to meet many of you, to work with your children in schools and to help make your libraries enticing and well-used.*”

**Kirsten** says: “ *I am moving on to improve health outcomes for children and young people and will be managing Health Visitors, School Nurses and Community Nursery Nurse teams. I will take with me a powerful message – that literacy makes the most difference to health outcomes and that reading more is the key to improving literacy. For the last five years I have worked for the best library service in the country. I will miss all of my colleagues in the ELS and public libraries and I know that they will carry on doing inspired and inspiring work to make a difference - improving literacy and encouraging a love of books and reading. Make sure you make the most of all of the services offered by your Education Library Service and please encourage children and young people to read more and use their local library!*”

## Spring INSET: SMARTER targets

The following course can be attended by librarians and relevant secondary school staff. Please pass the details on to colleagues you feel may be interested in securing a place.

**Working Smarter:  
Making your library effectively  
support your curriculum**

Tuesday 21st March 2017  
9.30am– 3.30pm

**Venue: Independence Matters,  
Ipswich Road, Norwich, NR4 6QS**

Parking is available on site

A full day course for high school librarians, teaching staff, curriculum leads and managers.

Raise your library profile through the use of SMARTER targets (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely, evaluation and reflection) and understand how to plan library initiatives that are tailored to the needs of your school community and that allow for assessment and evaluation.

**Course leader:** Sarah Pavey, MSc FCLIP,  
Independent Consultant and Trainer

**Cost: 2 ELS Tokens, with lunch provided**

All of our courses are designed to support the requirements of the new National Curriculum and are flexible enough to suit any curriculum. Full details can be found at: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/els](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/els)

## False news and what we can do about it

Post-truth was the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2016. Can we not simply call it lies, or propaganda? It is probably both those things, but has a new added resonance because of the speed with which messages on Facebook, Twitter and so on can be passed to people recognised by the senders as being likely eager recipients of whatever distortions they are given, without query or concern. Librarians are being exhorted to counter such unquestioning attitudes by reinforcing the importance of information literacy; we need to emphasise and demonstrate the necessity for searching out reliable sources; checking validity and authority; to question, question, question...

In 2016 CILIP's Information Literacy Group announced a bursary for fascinating research into the physical and psychological effect of mis-information on young people. It behoves us all to try to guide, warn, yet reassure our students to prepare them for this fast changing and shrinking world of the internet and social media.

How does your school go about addressing such questions? Do you feel you are keeping up with the trends? Extremist groups have recognised the usefulness and seduction of social media for some years – is your school community facing up to these pressures? Check out the SLA publications on information literacy, and there's a useful 'hand-holding' publication by Helen Blanchett et al called 'A Guide to Teaching Information Literacy' (Facet Publishing, ISBN 9781856046596)

## Wellbeing in children and young people: how libraries can help

Save the date: on Friday 31st March, YLG Eastern are hosting a full-day event with speakers from a range of professions aimed at giving an overall perspective on the concerns with children's and young people's mental health and in particular, how we can support them.

Taking place at Saffron Walden High School, the day will feature keynotes from Miranda McKearney from Empathy Lab, authors Matt Whyman and Joanne Limburg, plus more to be confirmed. Youth librarians in all sectors are welcome to attend, plus anyone who supports children's mental health including teachers, teaching assistants, school nurses and inclusion workers.

Cost to attend is £30 for CILIP members, £35 for non-members. If you or a colleague are interested in attending, please let us know or alternatively, look out for updated information we'll be cascading once the final details (including times and how to book!) are confirmed.

## Mood-boosting books for young people

Selected by young people involved in Reading Hack and volunteering in public libraries, a new list of mood-boosting books has launched by Reading Well, featuring books by Patrick Ness, Rainbow Rowell and Holly Bourne amongst others.

The young people involved in the selection process recommended titles according to their own personal experience and whether they had been uplifting for themselves and others.

The full list is available online [here](#) and includes familiar favourites (Roald Dahl's 'Matilda', the first instalment in the Harry Potter series) alongside contemporary texts (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 'We Should All Be Feminists'). There's even poetry - Ruhi Kaur's 'Milk and Honey' - and a graphic novel, 'This One Summer' by Jillian and Mariko Tamaki.

The titles will be available at Norfolk Libraries and we'll be ensuring that they're represented on our schools eBook platform too where possible. For more information please ask at your local library or visit <http://reading-well.org.uk/> to learn more about the scheme.

