

**MAY
2018**

HIGH LIGHTS

Tasty morsels from your Education Library Service

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE: SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2018

Norfolk Libraries have opened their recruitment of young volunteers aged 13-25 to help with the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge. Volunteering sessions take place between during the school holidays, from mid-July to the beginning of September.



They ask for a minimum commitment of 2 hours per week although there can be scope to do more volunteering hours, depending on the activities which are running at each library.

Young volunteers are vital to supporting the Summer Reading Challenge within libraries.

Norfolk libraries work with young volunteers to ensure that children taking part are encouraged to keep their reading skills up during the holidays.

Challenge Champions volunteer alongside library staff to do the following:

- Register young readers for the challenge
- Talk to children about reading and what the challenge involves
- Help children to select books by sharing reading recommendations
- Work with staff to prepare activities
- Use creative skills to assist with craft activities and preparing displays

Volunteers who are undertaking a Duke of Edinburgh award can use their volunteering towards the awards with a volunteering element. All young volunteers will receive a certificate to recognise their contribution and the library service offers young volunteers a reference for applications for work or further study.

If you know of someone who would be interested in helping out this summer, contact staff at your local library or e-mail volunteercontact@norfolk.gov.uk to request an application pack.



WHY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS MATTER: WHAT YEARS OF RESEARCH TELL US

The following research in America by Lance & Kachel (2018) is a very brief summary on school library impact, probably reflected in the UK where there has also been a drop in number of librarians in schools.

The mere presence of a librarian is associated with better student outcomes, but what librarians do also has positive effects. Multiple studies have found that test scores tend to be higher in schools where librarians spend more time:

- Instructing students, both with classroom teachers and independently;
- Planning collaboratively with classroom teachers;
- Providing professional development to teachers;
- Meeting regularly with the principal;
- Serving on key school leadership committees;
- Facilitating the use of technology by students and teachers;
- Providing technology support to teachers, and
- Providing reading incentive programs.

“The benefits associated with good library programs are strongest for the most vulnerable and at-risk learners, including students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.” Lance & Schwarz 2012

This is still under realized in our schools. For evidence of the impact librarians have in their schools, look at the very useful research report from the National Literacy Trust published in June 2017. It quotes the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Libraries (2014) as saying: *“the school librarian is uniquely placed to support teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum”*

NEW RESEARCH SHOWS WIDENING WORD GAPS

A survey by OUP of more than 1,300 teachers revealed that almost half (49%) of Year 1 pupils have a limited vocabulary or "word gap", to the extent it affects their learning. Significantly, the gap falls only slightly in secondary school, with 43% of students in Year 7 also suffering from the problem. Teachers believe the word gap occurs when children don't read for pleasure or have enough opportunity to practice vocabulary.

Jane Harley from OUP, said: *“Language opens doors. It unlocks the world of reading and the imagination... In schools, it underpins progress, impacts on attainment through primary and secondary years, affects self-esteem and behaviour, and plays a huge role in a child's life chances. Without enough language - a word gap - a child is seriously limited in their enjoyment of school and success beyond.”*

The report, entitled **'Why Closing the Word Gap Matters: Oxford Language Report'**, revealed that 80% of teachers believe limited vocabulary affects pupils' ability to answer test questions, and around two-thirds said the problem was worse than in previous years. Schools which have some success in closing the gap employ a whole-school literacy policy, giving their pupils access to a range of quality texts.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STORY; SCHOOL LIBRARIES STIMULATING LEARNING, WELL-BEING AND CREATIVITY

Our Librarian, Harriet, was fortunate to attend one day of the recent biennial SLG national conference, and gives us her thoughts below. For more details about any of the items mentioned, and much more, take a look on the SLG pages of the CILIP website.

Every child in the UK deserves a good school library

Perhaps the most important presentation was the first, given by Nick Poole, chief executive of CILIP, who announced a new 3 year campaign by both SLG (as a group within CILIP) and the SLA, to press hard for the recognition of school libraries by government and Ofsted, with funding for school heads to support the professionalism of library staff. They have tried in the past and failed, but through learning from past mistakes combined with positive experience in Scotland, feel that renewed joint efforts have better chance of succeeding. Let's hope so!

Building communities of readers

Professor Teresa Cremin's research has concentrated on studying teachers as readers, and her talk looked at the role of adults in enthusing and creating young readers, not merely functional but enthusiastic and joyful. Evidence shows that reading for pleasure is not a nice 'add-on', but that it leads to a richer vocabulary, emotional maturity, empathy and mindfulness of others, as well as more confident access to areas of the curriculum other than English. The OECD PIRL results in 2017 showed that of English speaking countries English pupils had the lowest rating for enjoyment of and engagement in reading (except Australia), so there is much to do – and who better placed than librarians? We all know that the library can be seen as a neutral safe space for pupils to relax and accordingly be more open to experiment without fear of being tested and assessed.

Learning Without Limits

Dame Alison Peacock has been an inspirational head teacher and is now CEO of the Chartered College of Teaching, and her philosophy is that we should not set levels on ability; that it is actually harmful to children and can stunt their potential. Learning has to be irresistible, and the library and librarian are in a perfect position to be an inspirational catalyst for young people to spread their wings.

National Literacy Trust and Fake News

Jonathan Douglas, director of the NLT spoke about its work in this its 25th anniversary year, including the important research it is engaged in for the All-Party Parliamentary Commission on Literacy. Look out for the final report on critical literacy skills and how educators can guide young people, coming out in June 2018.

Robert Muchamore promoted his next stand-alone thriller, *Killer T*, coming out in September, and **Mohammad Khan** gave a fascinating presentation on the background to his YA novel *I Am Thunder*.

So, a very full day – and there was also time to go round the exhibition, chat to publishers and pick up lots of proofs, and browse in the bookshop. Sadly I had to leave before the evening dinner and lovely Meg Rosoff's speech, but I feel I had learnt a lot. Do get in touch if you wish to hear more.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID YOUTH LITE: WHAT YOU THOUGHT

Last month, we hosted a Mental Health First Aid Youth Lite session for school staff. Led by practitioner Bec Jasper, the session was designed to help attendees gain a wider understanding of some issues surrounding young people's mental health, enabling them to interact more effectively with young people who are experiencing mental health issues and provide them with suitable support. Julie Glasel, Librarian at Taverham High, shared her thoughts on the session:

The training course, held in the Millennium Library, to help us gain a wider understanding of some issues surrounding young people's mental health, certainly did that. Although many of us are aware of young people with, and may well have experienced, mental health issues to varying degrees, it was really interesting to hear from Bec Jasper (of MHFA Youth Lite) that having the right coping strategies can make all the difference to each individual. That, sometimes, just knowing there is someone willing to take time to listen can help, whether they take you up on the offer or not. Mental Health First Aid Youth Lite was a most useful course that will support me in understanding of students in our library.

CARNEGIE GREENAWAY AWARDS 2018

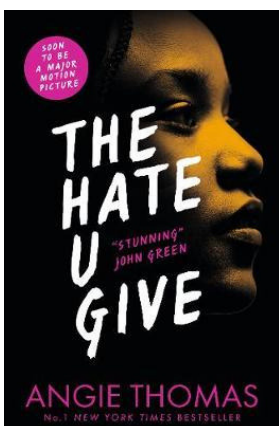
Now the shortlist is out, shadowing is well under way for the CKG awards, so we hope you have excited readers reading and reviewing the listed books. The awards will be announced at lunchtime on June 19th, so how about arranging a special event to coincide with the national announcement, either just with your group or getting together with another school or two? We would love to hear from you after the day; let us know what you did, how it went, and – most crucially! – did you all agree with the national choices of winners?

The Carnegie Medal is for the best children's and young people's book in English (not necessarily a novel); the Kate Greenaway Medal for the most outstanding picture book, and the Amnesty CILIP Honour award for the book from either list which best reflects human rights and freedoms. If you haven't already done so, take a look at the shadowing site for useful info: www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowing

REVIEW: THE HATE U GIVE BY ANGIE THOMAS

Starr Carter is a sixteen year old who exists between two worlds; the exclusive suburban prep school she attends and Garden Heights, the poor neighbourhood she and her family live in. On a drive home from a party one evening, she witnesses the death of her childhood friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed, and his fatality becomes a national headline, the centre of which Starr finds herself, because- amidst all the speculation- she knows what really happened that night.

For a book to address the Black Lives Matter movement head-on and to do it real justice is no mean feat, and it's rare to read a book for young people which tackles real-world issues in such an empathetic and unpatronising way. It's a powerful introduction to social, political and racial relations in the US, and indeed elsewhere. Incredibly moving, and a must-read for all. (Walker Books, £7.99 paperback, ISBN 9781406372151)



DAY OF THE GIRL BOOK CLUB: NEW GROUP AT THE MILLENNIUM LIBRARY



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL
NORWICH

Librarians at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library have joined forces with Day of the Girl Norwich to establish a new book club for 12-16 year olds who want to read and discuss YA fiction which focuses on the adventures and experiences of strong girl protagonists.

Meetings are open to boys *and* girls, and will take place from 5-6pm on the second Thursday of every month, beginning on **May 10th** and finishing on International Day of the Girl, Thursday 11th October.

If you know any young people who'd like to attend, please encourage them to sign up by emailing millennium.lib@norfolk.gov.uk

YOUNG NORFOLK ARTS FESTIVAL: . GET YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED!

A colorful poster for the Young Norfolk Arts Festival. The background is a bright blue sky with green trees and pink flowers. At the bottom, there are two worms and a tree stump. The text is centered and reads: 'Young Norfolk Arts are looking for YOUNG MUSICIANS, DANCERS, POETS AND PERFORMERS to showcase their talent at Norwich events in summer 2018:'. Below this, there are four event boxes: 'Royal Norfolk Show' (Two days of performance at the Norfolk Showground on 5 different stages, 27th - 28th June, various times), 'Lord Mayor's Celebrations: Lost River Stage' (Summer family celebration in the city centre, Saturday 7th July, 11am-5pm), 'YNA 2018 Celebration' (Get ready for Latitude and the summer festivals!, Monday 9th July, 4pm onwards), and 'Head Out Not Home' (Taking over the Platform Stage on Westlegate, Thursday 12th July, 5pm-8pm). At the bottom, it says 'To take part, please send a link to your work and your choice of event(s) to comms@ynaf.org.uk by Friday 25th May. www.ynaf.org.uk' and includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Logos for Norfolk County Council, Arts Council England, and Lottery Funded are at the bottom left.

Are any of your students budding musicians, dancers, poets or performers?

Young Norfolk Arts Festival will take place this year between 8th-15th July, but there are plenty of opportunities for young people to get involved with this year's summer events.

For those wishing to showcase their talents, there's a general call for submissions with a deadline of **Friday 25th May**. Anyone wanting to participate simply needs to send a link of their work and note of the events in which they'd like to participate to the YNAF team: comms@ynaf.org.uk

For more information about this year's festival, visit their website: www.ynaf.org.uk and for a behind the scenes look at what they've been up to in previous years, check out their backstage blog ynafbackstage.wordpress.com