



Library Newsletter

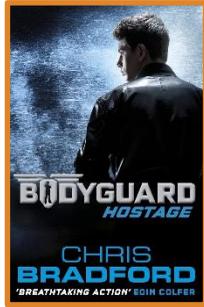


December 2024



In November and December, we hosted two author visits.

Chris Bradford visited our school on Thursday 21st November. Renowned for his dynamic author events and his 'method writing' technique, Chris is a black belt martial artist, qualified professional bodyguard and former musician.



He has sold in excess of three million books and his **Bodyguard: Ransom** novel is a UK top ten bestseller. A number of his novels are dyslexia-friendly and appeal to all, including reluctant readers.

Whilst at our school, Chris delivered two interactive performances, combining interactive readings with audio-visual material and demonstrations. The Y7 students took part in the **Lunar** event, with the Y8s participating in the **Bodyguard** performance.

The presentations were entertaining and engaging for students and staff alike, and it was clear that Chris' talks had a huge positive impact on the students who rushed to the library to borrow his books following the events.

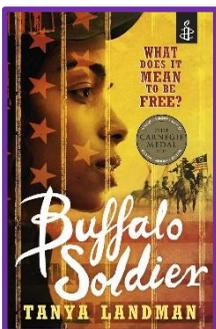


The Lunar Event

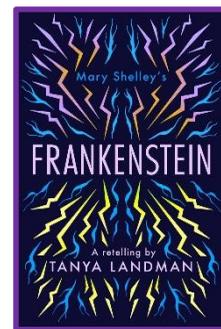


The Bodyguard Event





Award-winning author, **Tanya Landman**, visited our school on Thursday 5th December. Tanya has written over 50 books across a wide age range, from picture books for pre-school children to historical thrillers for teens and young adults. She has won several book awards, including the prestigious Carnegie medal for her novel, **Buffalo Soldier**.



More recently, Tanya has created accessible retellings of classics with publishers, Barrington Stoke, including **Jane Eyre** and **Frankenstein**.

Tanya's sessions are lively as well as being informative, and a group of us was lucky enough to see her at the Cheltenham Literature Festival last year. Whilst at our school, Tanya gave two talks to our Y9 and Y10 students. During the presentations, Tanya reflected on her career, as well as talking about her books and the dyslexia-friendly classics. Tanya started off working in a book shop, but has also worked at Bristol Zoo and has a background in theatre too, now performing one-woman shows.

After speaking to the two year groups, the students were able to ask Tanya questions - these ranged from questions about her two sons, to her favourite books.

Later in the day, Tanya delivered a creative writing workshop to a mixed Y9/Y10 group. The students were attentive and embraced the workshop, producing high quality written pieces (see next page for examples).





Edward Muzzlewood always ended the day surrounded by green dollar bills. Walls built with the thin, green paper surrounded him, stacks upon stacks, piles upon piles, keeping him from the bland white walls of Daniel Trifflebricks' office. Still, he sat, finishing the final of his counting with a satisfied smile, securing the bills with a wire clip of his own creation, crafted with the emblem of his fortune - Terisation. Pleased with himself, Edward Muzzlewood rose from his sanctuary, careful not to knock any of his precious towers and began to think of what he'd indulge in for supper. The finest soup from the Philippines or perhaps a taste of that fine steak sent from France. Maybe he'd treat himself to a crumb of that rich, rich trifle from -

But he didn't have time to finish that thought, for a wicked breeze entered the room, followed by the soft strike of a match.

Then, Edward and his fortune caught aflame.

By Betsy Jones

Patrick laughed and picked up his drink swaying like he was at sea and laughing so loud the other guests thought his stomach would give out.

"And Matt, oh buddy told him it was his," he said with a gut-wrenching laugh.

"By God champ, you're going to give yourself a heart attack," cried Matthew getting up from his seat smiling as he spoke.

"I wish you'd slap some sense into yourself instead of other people at pubs," he cried chuckling as the other four party guests cried out in joy.

As the guests chatted on in the sitting room, Matthew went out to the kitchen to top up his drink.

"God he's been out there a while," said Catherine, a slim woman with broad shoulders.

"I better go check on him," she cried excusing herself from the other guests.

Then the screaming started.

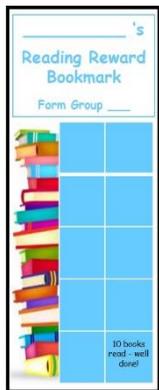
"Someone call the hospital, he's had an accident."

The guests walked in to find a standing Olivia, and Matthew Smith lying in a pile of glass.

"He's dead!" screamed Alan from the front of the crowd.

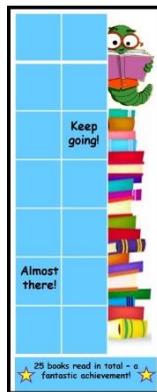
By Jorja Holpin

Reading Challenge: Update



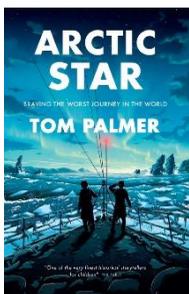
A number of students are already taking part in the Reading Challenge, with 15 students across four of the five year groups having read 10 books. Five students have already read 25 and one has finished 35 books.

The challenge is continuing until the end of the school year, so it is not too late to take part. Book tokens are awarded when certain milestones are achieved, so what are you waiting for?



BOOK REVIEWS IN A FEW SENTENCES

Mrs Workman has written two quick reviews on books that she has recently read with her son.



Arctic Star by Tom Palmer

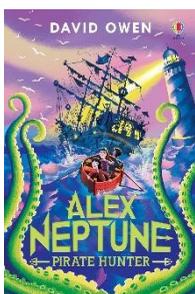
This is about an Arctic Convoy of WW2 and a group of three school friends. It brilliantly portrays war on a ship, the life, the cold and the fear!!

Spoiler Alert: The friendships are well written and made me cry at the loss of a friend.

An easy but informative and emotional read.

Key words: WW2, Friendship, Navy, Grief, Fear

Arctic Star is also a dyslexia-friendly book.



Alex Neptune, Pirate Hunter by David Owen

An exciting sea monster adventure, where you never know who to trust. At its heart, it is about protecting the ocean.

Mrs Workman and her son loved both books.

If you think you would like to read one of these books, why don't you come to the library to borrow one? We also hold other novels by the same authors.



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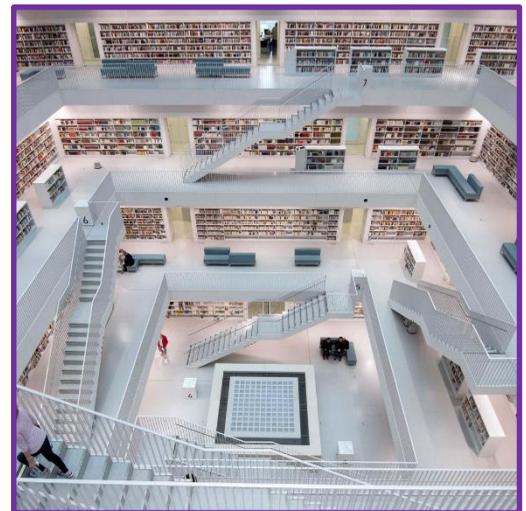
CHRISTMAS SALE!

We held a Christmas Sale in the library at break and lunchtime over a few days. Items sold included bookmarks, key rings, phone charms, Christmas decorations and jewellery. Thank you to all the staff and students who supported the sale. A particular thank you to Annaliese (Y11) for making some epoxy resin bookmarks to add to the sale. We raised just over £100 for our school charities.



FABULOUS LIBRARIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: STUTTGART CITY LIBRARY, GERMANY

The gleaming white surfaces and crisp lines create a dreamy and relaxed atmosphere within the Stuttgart City Library. Taking design cues from the Pantheon in Rome, German-based Yi Architects took a minimalist approach when designing the nine-storey library, with an open multi-floor reading room shaped like an upside-down pyramid. The only colour within the cube building comes from the thousands of books lining the shelves.



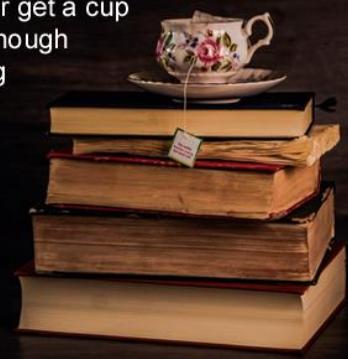
Marley was dead,
to begin with.
There is no doubt
whatever about
that.

NAME THE BOOK!

These are the first lines of a particular book. Can you name the book and the author? Answer at the end of the newsletter.

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."

~ C.S. Lewis

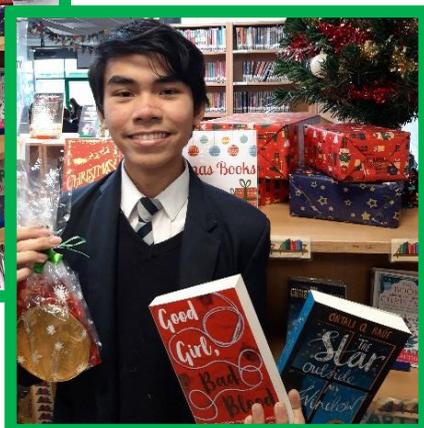




GUESS THE NUMBER OF PAGES!

As a fun Christmas competition, several books were laid flat, stacked on top of each other and then wrapped up in a single package. Students and staff were then invited to guess the total number of pages when all the pages of all the books were added together. We received just under 50 student entries and our winner was **Nathan (Y11)** whose guess of **4774** was the closest with a difference of **762** pages - the actual number was **5536** pages. Our staff winner was **Mrs Dee** with her guess of **6008** pages. Congratulations to Nathan and Mrs Dee.

OUR WINNERS



And Finally...

After seven and a half years, Mrs Scanlan is moving on to pastures new.

All of us at Barnwood Park would like to wish Mrs Scanlan all the very best and thank her for all of her hard work in the Library and with our students during her time at the school.

Many thanks,

Mrs Scanlan and Mrs Beale

NAME THE BOOK!

Answer: A Christmas Carol - written by Charles Dickens