

Reading for Pleasure @ Horsforth School: Half-Term 1

School Stories

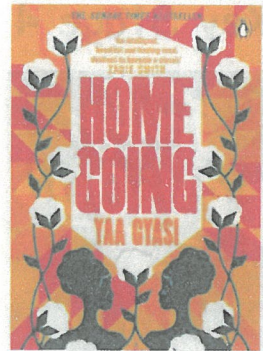
In the final term of the 2025 academic year, there were lots of excellent events to promote reading throughout Horsforth School! In June, nine amazing year 9 students took part in a poetry workshop with Matt Abbott. Matt is a poet, educator and activist from Wakefield who is keen to inspire young writers in the art of lyricism across Yorkshire. The students took part in a range of writing activities that sparked inspiration, rhythm, and structure, producing some brilliant, personal poetry and challenging their creativity to the limits! Each one of them made Horsforth School very proud with their integrity, confidence and adaptability. Horsforth definitely has some future poets in the making!

In July, 25 enthusiastic students from Years 7, 8 and 9 at Horsforth School took part in a creative poetry workshop exploring climate change and our planet's future. Led by Josh from *Climate Action* and Chris from *Brave Words*, the session invited students to reflect on their relationship with the environment and express their thoughts through poetry. The results were powerful, imaginative, and moving, each student crafted a unique piece exploring themes of nature, responsibility, and hope. Their work may even be showcased at the Climate Action Festival at Horsforth Hall this September (stay tuned for more details!)

Staff Shelfie: Miss Martin, KS3 and Vulnerable Learner Lead

"The books that sparked a reading passion in me as a child were the Chronicles of Narnia, fantasy, adventure and the triumph of good over evil all rolled up in an incredible series. Secondary school, however, is the perfect time to read as much as you possibly can and find what you truly love to read.

As a teenager I found my passion for real-life narratives centred around three dimensional female characters alongside prose that reads like poetry, rooted in Greek mythology. One of my favourite books this year has been *Circe* by Madeline Miller. I'm currently reading *Home Going* by Yaa Gyasi."



Student Competition: Remembrance Day 2025

Each half term, we will be promoting a creative competition for all students to enter! Over the next six weeks, up until Friday 17th October, students are challenged to come up with their best work! In preparation for Remembrance Day 2025, we would like students to create a piece of writing to commemorate the lives lost in war. This could be a short story, poem, speech or other creative form but must be no more than 500 words. There will be a prize for the best entries. Complete and email to Mr Wilson or hand to your English teacher by Friday 17th October!

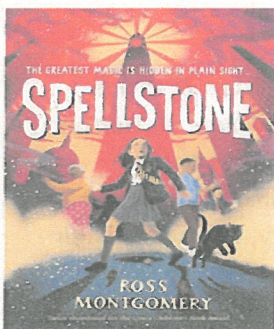


Horsforth School Reading Curriculum



Recommended Reads

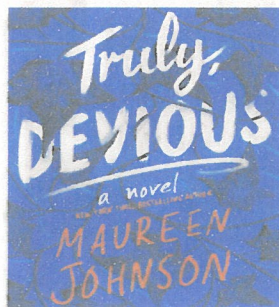
Key Stage 3



The greatest magic is hidden in plain sight...

Evie is used to not being noticed. But when she meets the mysterious Wainwright, she discovers that going unnoticed might just be what makes her unique. Recruited into a secret magical organization, Evie finds herself at the heart of an ancient and magical battle. Evil is returning to the land, and Evie is the only person who can stop it. But how can she defeat the most dangerous magician in the world, when she doesn't even know her own powers?

Key Stage 4

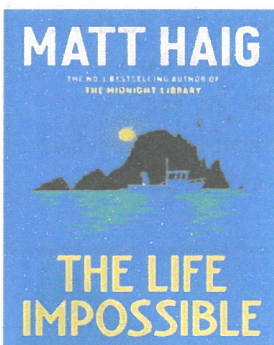


Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. It was founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon, who wanted to make a wonderful place full of riddles, twisting pathways, and gardens. "A place," he said, "where learning is a game."

Shortly after the school opened, his wife and daughter were kidnapped.

True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case. But something strange is happening. The past has crawled out of its grave. Someone has gotten away with murder...

Key Stage 5



'What looks like magic is simply a part of life we don't understand yet ...'

When retired Maths teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets the better of her. She arrives in Ibiza with a one-way ticket, no guidebook and no plan.

Among the rugged hills and golden beaches Grace searches for answers about her friend's life, and how it ended. What she uncovers is stranger than she could have dreamed. But to dive into this impossible truth, Grace must first come to terms with her past.

Filled with wonder and wild adventure, this is a story of hope and the life-changing power of a new beginning.

