

Reading for Pleasure @ Horsforth School: Half-Term Six

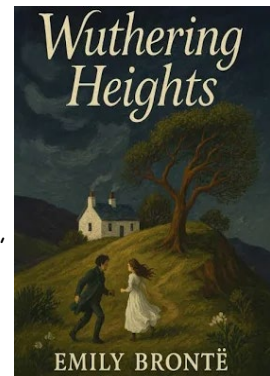
School Stories

We have had a busy term at Horsforth school this half term! On April 21st, two teams of year 7s and 8s competed against other schools in Leeds in the poetry grand slam and absolutely blew the crowd away with their incredible lyricism and performances. Although they didn't bring home the trophy, they were extremely professional and represented Horsforth School, making their friends and family very proud!

Year 11s have been eagerly preparing for GCSEs, rereading their literature texts as much as possible. The Reading Room with Ms Haley and Ms Slade has been prospering at lunchtimes, as is open every Friday for a quiet place to sit and read. Keep reading!

Staff Shelfie: Ms Wardle

A book that I keep going back to is *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte. It is set in the 18th Century on the moors just outside of Haworth - so not far from here - and tells the story of the tumultuous relationship between Cathy and Heathcliff. It has some really engaging themes, such as types of love, revenge, social class constraints and the conflict between untamed nature and civilised society. I love the descriptions of the moors, and how, despite the flaws of the two main protagonists, you find yourself very invested in their outcome. It has of course recently been made into a film with Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi, but there's nothing better than reading the book!



Student Competition: Enterprise Day 2026

Each half term, we will be promoting a creative competition for all students to enter! Over 30 students submitted entries for our 'Sense of Belonging' competition and the winners were Mayamiko Masuli and Fatima Khan who each received a £20 Amazon voucher: [Culture Day Writing Competition 2026](#)

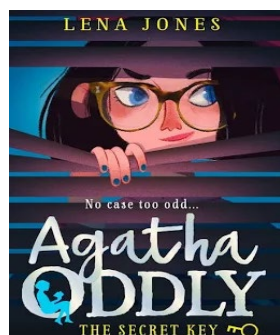
The challenge for this edition of the Reading Newsletter is focused on looking ahead to our 4th Horsforth School Enterprise Day on Friday 11th July as part of our Candlelighters fundraising. Students are challenged to produce a piece of creative writing with the title 'Making a Difference'. This might be a story, poem, speech, song, or any original piece of writing! Entries can be submitted via email to Mr Wilson or to English teachers by Friday 26th June.

Horsforth School Reading Curriculum



Recommended Reads

Key Stage 3



Meet thirteen-year-old Agatha Oddly - a bold, determined heroine, and the star of a stylish new detective series.

Agatha Oddlow has been a detective for as long as she can remember - she's just been waiting for her first big case. And nothing gets bigger than saving the City of London from some strange goings-on.

With a scholarship to the prestigious St Regis School, a cottage in the middle of Hyde Park, a room full of beloved sleuthing novels, and a secret key that gives her access to a whole hidden side of London, Agatha is perfectly poised to solve the mystery of what's going on. But just who can she trust when no one is quite who they seem...

Key Stage 4



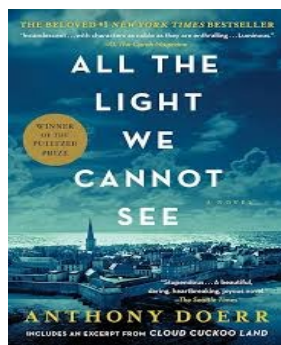
When Xavier wakes up on the first morning of an enforced family weekend away, he doesn't recognise where they are - it's as if the house has inexplicably been transported to the set of a video game.

Three years later, he's sixteen and resigned to life without the internet, other people, let alone a girlfriend... when suddenly another family appears, one with vastly contrasting political ideologies and priorities.

In the confines of this strange world, Xavier and 17-year-old gorgeous Mackenzie are thrown together, Mackenzie's erratic father becomes obsessively fixated on escape, and tensions between the two families begin to rise with devastating and tragic consequences...

Kenneth Oppel's most thrilling novel to date is challenging, provocative and unforgettable.

Key Stage 5



For Marie-Laure, blind since the age of six, the world is full of mazes: the miniature model of her Paris neighbourhood she traces with her fingers; the microscopic layers within the diamond in the Museum of Natural History; the unmapped future which brings her ever closer to Werner, a German orphan, whose talents draw the attention of the Hitler Youth.

A deeply moving novel about the ways people try to be good to one another, *All the Light We Cannot See* has touched the hearts of millions of readers across the world, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

