

23rd January 2023

Dear Families

The focus of this week's letter is to update you on the vibrant and creative life of our Library. Our Library is open every break and dinner, students can browse the catalogue, exchange books, sit and read or take part in the themed activities that range from painting to creative writing. We have a dedicated team of avid readers in our Student Librarians who check books in and out, they help organise the catalogue shelving and they offer advice and guidance to students on what to read. If your child would like to be a Student Librarian; please just speak to Miss Selwood.

After school, our Library is open to students on Mondays through Thursdays. For all our clubs, we provide the materials and every club is open to all year groups. Students can join a club at any time, newcomers are welcome to every club. The clubs run to 3:30pm each day.

Currently on offer, Monday is our Creative Writing Club, students work alongside Miss Selwood, they create exciting characters, plots and work together to draft and hone a piece of writing. This is a great opportunity for any student interested in writing, from poetry, to stories, journalism or dramatic plays to come along and work on a draft or manuscript.

On Tuesday, we host our Crochet Club, this is a popular club where students can learn to crochet basic stitches and then work to develop those skills, working up to making a crocheted item of their choice. We have lots of crochet hooks and yarn, this is a popular club – all skill levels are welcome.

On Wednesday, we have our Dungeons and Dragons Club, again a very popular club. Dungeons and Dragons is a table top role playing game, students take on the roles of different characters in a story and have to use their oracy skills and work together as a team to navigate the game. We have students in leadership roles in this club, they manage their groups effectively and there is always a buzz at D&D on a Wednesday afterschool; the levels of imagination and creativity at this club is astounding!

On Thursday – we run two clubs side by side. Miss Selwood leads the Manga Club – this is for students to develop skills in graphic artistry and story telling. Mr Monk also leads the Chess Club, a well attended club where you can learn the rules as a beginner, or play matches with other students if a more confident player.

In addition to encouraging students into the Library – we also take our Library out on tour – via our Mobile Library Trolley, in this way we are actively encouraging all students to select a book to read for pleasure. We would love for you to discuss our Library with your child/ren upon receiving this letter. Please encourage them to come visit our Library, or borrow from the mobile trolley. Reading really is the key to greater levels of comprehension and a love of reading is a life long skill worth investing in. We are immensely proud of the wonderful work that goes on in our Library, it is a multi-use space at the heart of our school, we want every student to feel that it is theirs.

Finally, we hope that you have noticed our GAA Community Book Swap in the main reception. There are a selection of fiction books to take away, read and return. We update this regularly with donations from staff and often have some current titles, so please do have a look next time you are in. We have added a children's section to this, with board books and picture books suitable for younger students, again these can be taken away to read, enjoy and return.

We would welcome your feedback and ideas on the Library, about themes we could possibly have or events that we could organise. Please do contact me on cathy.johnston@gaa.org.uk should you have any feedback.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Johnsnton
Assistant Principal Reading and Disciplinary Writing