



As a school, we understand the vital importance of reading - the value of being able to transport your child to another world through a book. In a time obsessed with social media and technology, reading is becoming a forgotten passion, something that we won't stand for!

At St Catherine's, we have been working hard to ensure that reading is not only encouraged, but that opportunities for reading are provided for your child. As you know, all students are expected to carry a reading book in their bag, in case they are asked to silently read at the start of a lesson, for example. We found that this was not enough so we have implemented some reading initiatives.

**Register and Read**

During Wednesday or Friday of every Week B, your child will read a fiction or non-fiction text with their tutor. We have chosen texts that are engaging, interesting and, more importantly, that expose them to vocabulary and ideas they might not necessarily have come across before. Students have been engaged, asking questions and have had some really meaningful debates about the topics covered. Please ask your children about the different texts they have read!

**Reading Challenges – Summer 2019 and Christmas 2019**

Before we broke up for the summer and Christmas holidays, we set challenges for our students to keep track of what they were reading, have it signed at home and bring it in. The results were brilliant! It was heartening to see so many students making such marked leaps in improving their reading skills.

**Whole School Reading – 'All Summer in a Day'**

Last week, every student participated in our whole school reading event. Interesting vocabulary was displayed around the School and students were encouraged to write these down and find the definitions. Over the course of the week, each student had a short story read to them in sections. We chose a science-fiction short story, 'All Summer in a Day' by Ray Bradbury. There were some amazing discussions taking place, important questions raised and themes discussed that will hopefully stay with your child. Students will also

see a short film adaptation during tutor time.

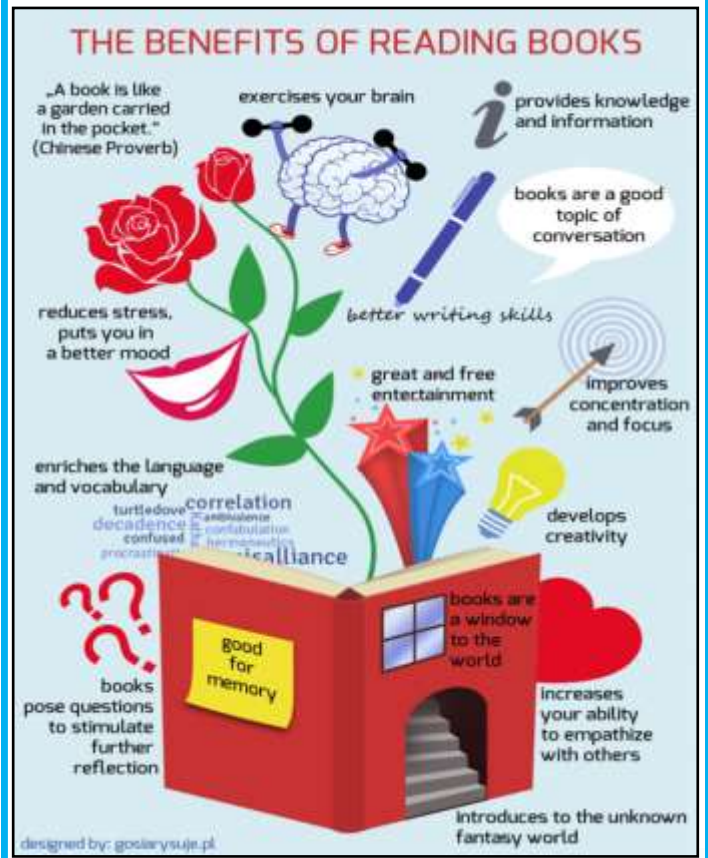
**What's in the future?**

We have some more interesting and exciting plans to do with reading across the School. World Book Day is coming up in March 2020, and there will be more holiday challenges to get involved in. The Library is open every lunchtime and after-school for those who would like to find that perfect book.

A child who can read well at the age of 11 is able to understand the meaning behind stories and information, and to talk confidently about what they have read. This level of reading is necessary, not just to get by, but to get on, giving children the best chance of leaving school with good qualifications and leading successful lives. We want to ensure that our pupils stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers: locally, nationally and globally.

If you have any suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me: [ssimpson@stcatherines.college](mailto:ssimpson@stcatherines.college). Thank you for your support.

Stephanie Simpson  
Literacy Co-Ordinator



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Mrs Gillian Nicholson is our new SENCO. She has worked as a SENCO for the last six years in both Kent and East Sussex and is passionate about supporting the needs of all children.



Mr Kane Wright joins us as Second in Maths. He previously worked at Willingdon Secondary School as a Maths Teacher. He will be taking over Mrs Akister's tutor group.



Miss Shirley Li is our new Mandarin Teacher. She previously taught Mandarin at a school in Oxford.

## YEAR 8 RE TRIP

A report from Mrs Preston:

Recently, a group of Year 8 students visited a Gurdwara, a Sikh temple. They learnt about the Sikh faith and how to write their name in Punjab. Students then ate in the Langar - the Gurdwara's kitchen, which provides free for all as an act of selfless love for others.

Our guide said they were the best behaved group she had ever had!



## SIGNING IN AND SIGNING OUT

Please be reminded that students leaving for appointments must sign out via Student Services and NOT through main reception. This is part of our safeguarding procedure. The same procedure applies when your child arrives back at school. Please use the Student Services doorbell when picking up or dropping off your child. Parking is available in Bedewell. Thank you for your cooperation.

## FOODBANK APPEAL

A report from Mrs Baker:

As a teacher at St Catherine's, one of my passions is to encourage the act of 'giving' amongst our students. With many people struggling with difficult circumstances, it is important that we all do what we can to help. Sadly, in our town, increasing numbers of families are becoming reliant on the work of Foodbank and the demand for this service has never been greater.

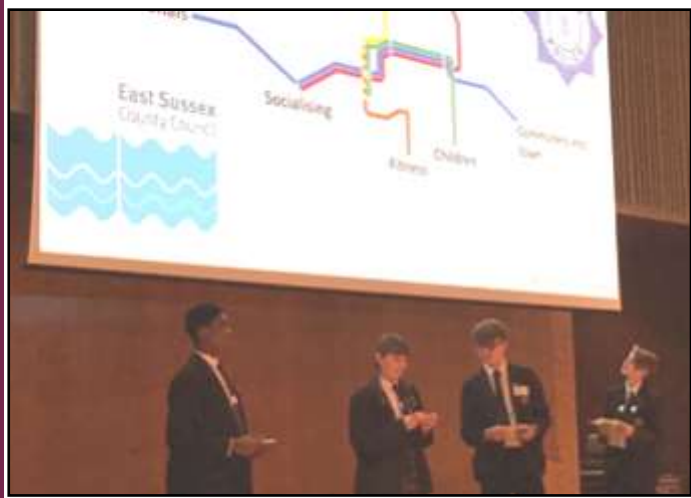
Each year we hold a whole school collection for our local Foodbank and I am delighted to report that our collection amounted to a staggering 384.3kgs which provided 385 meals.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity has made a huge impact on local families in need!



## 'YOUR TOWN' GROUP

Well done to the 'Your Town' group for representing St Catherine's in the Eastbourne Schools Partnership at The Birley Centre this week. The group presented their work on the development of a cycle app to the Mayor and other dignitaries.



## TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS

### Year 7

Logan Adams **409**  
Nikitas Tarasidis **376**  
Erin Cameron **367**  
Phoebe Gaskell **365**  
Melody Capehorn **355**



### Year 8

Amberley Connor **326**  
Asha Reid-Wills **325**  
Jasmine Adsett **323**  
Reuben Thornett **279**  
Grace Phelps **277**



### Year 9

Naomi Frais **354**  
Elizabeth Finn **333**  
Grace Boyd **321**  
Emily Duckett **302**  
June Maunga **293**

### Year 10

Ailsa Cameron **453**  
Berrie Robertson **420**  
Seth Archibald **402**  
Amber Matthews **369**  
Joshua Capper **365**

### Year 11

Katherine Pawley **457**  
Hannah Cheeseman **431**  
Lois Hilton **361**  
Mia Lozinski **352**  
Jasmine Ramazannejad **335**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January

27 Y7 Assessment Fortnight begins  
31 INSET Day

### February

3 Y10 Assessment Fortnight begins  
7 Mufti Day  
12 Y11 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
14 End of Term 3  
22-25 Y8 & Y9 Spanish trip to Andalucia  
24 Start of Term 4  
24 Y11 Assessment Fortnight begins

### March

2 Y8 Assessment Fortnight begins  
6 Y9 Booster Vaccinations  
19 School Production  
20 School Production  
24 Y7 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm

### April

3 Mufti Day  
3 Last Day of Term 4  
20 First Day of Term 5  
21 Y9 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
24-26 DofE Silver Practice Expedition  
25-26 DofE Bronze Practice Expedition  
29 Y8 HPV Vaccinations  
30 Y8 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm

### May

6 Y10 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
8 Bank Holiday  
22 Last Day of Term 5  
23-27 Y8 & Y9 Italy Cultural Trip

### June

1 First Day of Term 6  
15 Y10 Assessment Fortnight begins  
15-19 Y8 Bushcraft Residential Trip  
19 Town Sports  
21-25 CCF Summer Camp  
26-29 Y9 French Immersion Trip  
29 Y10 Work Experience Week starts  
30 Y6 Induction Evening

### July

3 Y10 Work Experience Week ends  
4-5 DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition  
7 Y6 Taster Day  
8 Y6 Taster Day  
10 Sports Day  
17 Last Day of Term 6  
20 INSET Day