

LRC News

1	Welcome
1	National Strategy
1	Summer Reading Challenge
2-3	Dyce Academy
3-4	Cults Academy
4-5	Hazlehead Academy
5-7	Kincorth Academy
8-9	Bridge of Don Academy
9-11	Harlaw Academy
11-12	Bucksburn Academy
13	News Round-up

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of LRC News looking at the wide range of activities and support offered to our young people in Secondary Schools.

If you have any comments or would like further information on any of the items please speak to your school LRCC or contact Yvonne Barclay, Young People's Librarian – ybarclay@aberdeencity.gov.uk

National Strategy for School Libraries

Following on from the publication last year of *How Good is Our School Library?* a new national strategy for school libraries will be published in August 2018. LRCCs from Aberdeen City joined with colleagues from Aberdeenshire and Moray to feed in to the *Standards, Leadership Qualities and Service Model* theme of the strategy while one LRCC has also been involved in the *Information, Digital Literacy and Digital Creativity* theme. SLIC, who are leading the development of the new strategy have sent a request for case studies. See News Round Up for further details. Some of the examples referred to for HGIOSL were provided by Aberdeen last year.

Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge Scotland

This year, Aberdeen City Libraries is working with six secondary schools to deliver the SRC Champions' volunteer programme with young people promoting the Challenge to local primary schools. The Challenge is a great way to encourage children to continue reading over the summer holidays. Children aged 4-12 can visit their local library three times during the holidays, choosing two books at each visit to count towards a final total of reading six books to complete the Challenge

Further developments to the SRC Champions' programme for 2018 will see the

- young people being offered the opportunity to volunteer in their local library to support the Challenge
- set-up of a young people's forum utilising SRC Champions in September 2018 to co-design a future Challenge for those aged 12+

Dyce Academy

Shared Reading at Dyce

Dyce Academy is one of four schools participating in the Book Connections: Intergenerational Reading Project funded by the Scottish Government's School Libraries' Improvement Fund.

We decided that a group of our S3 & S4 supported pupils would undertake a programme of shared reading with the pupils of Dyce Primary's Learning Den. These are pupils with additional support needs aged between 4 and 11.

The librarians compiled a long list of suitable titles and the academy pupils reduced that down to a shortlist of 6 titles: "This Book Just Ate My Dog", "Splat the Cat", "Tidy", "My Granny is a Pirate", "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs" and "Traction Man is Here".

Once the books arrived our pupils went across to the primary and after an initial meet-and-greet session began reading the books together.

To assist with the storytelling we had borrowed a selection of hand puppets from the Curriculum Resources and Information Service. These proved to be very popular and inspired two of our now S4 boys to build a puppet theatre under the tutelage of one of our school technicians. Another S4 boy, who is a talented thespian, is writing a script and by the end of term we should have seen their debut performance.

Having successfully applied for Scottish Book Trust Live Literature funding we were delighted to welcome the illustrator Kate Leiper (<http://kateleiper.co.uk/>) to our library on Wednesday 30th May. After morning break our pupils set off to accompany their group of fifteen P2-P7 primary buddies on the walk over in the glorious sunshine.



Kate started with a 30 minute introduction to her work focussing on mythological creatures and dragons. After a quick break for everyone to eat their packed lunches, coloured pens and pencils were being wielded with aplomb as the pupils designed their own dragons on A1 sheets of paper.

I think it is fair to say that the day was enjoyed by all.

Here is what Kate had to say about her visit:

“I had a super day at Dyce Academy working with the pupils on dragon drawing and was really impressed with the oodles of imagination and creativity shown by everyone. The highlight for me was seeing everybody's work laid out at the end and comparing all the different ideas, drawing techniques and variety of materials used. I was also very touched to see the care and attention shown by the older pupils towards the younger primary school children as they worked together on their drawings. The librarians and teachers had obviously carefully planned everything in advance, ensuring that requested equipment, resources and materials were ready and available, thereby contributing to the success of the workshop.”



We are not quite finished yet as next term our pupils will be devising book bags with materials to accompany the sets of books. These will then go into stock at the Curriculum Resources & Information Service and be available for city-wide use.

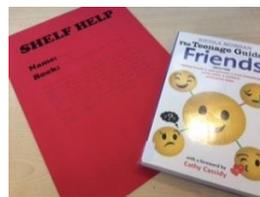
Cults Academy

Grampian Children's Book Award

This is the first year that Cults Academy has been involved in Grampian Children's Book Award. This is a book award covering Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray for young people in S1-S3 promoting reading for pleasure, a love of books and literacy which is voted for solely by pupils, so each vote counts. Participation gives pupils the opportunity to share their passion for reading with their peers. At Cults Academy S1 class 1D participated and read the six shortlisted books, voted for their favourite book, and had the opportunity to enter two competitions – to draw a poster and write a book review of their favourite book. The class enjoyed this opportunity with Ken saying he enjoyed participating because “we got to do so many fun activities and to read some amazing books” and Chiara commented that it was a chance to read books she maybe wouldn't have chosen but she found she enjoyed.

Shelf Help

Thanks to the funding from the School Library Improvement Fund the 'Healthy Libraries: Shelf Help and the School Library' project is underway at Cults Academy with P7s from Culter Primary and groups of S2 and S4 pupils reviewing the books so far as part of the 'Rave and Wave' project with pupils engaging in reading to support and improve their own mental health and encourage awareness of issues that may affect others.



Hazlehead Academy



Paws Against Stress Sessions May 2018

Exams can be a time of intense stress and anxiety and it is important that we support our pupils and help them to be mentally healthy during this period. 'Paws Against Stress' is a scheme that was developed by the University of Edinburgh's Student Counselling Service back in 2013 and adopted by many Universities across the country since. It pairs a student with a dog for a 20 minute session in a quiet space, during which they can relax, stroke and play with the dog to help alleviate stress and feel calmer.

Over two days in May we had four dogs in to visit Hazlehead Academy who spent time with over thirty of our senior pupils (and some staff!) during their study leave. Bruno the German Shepherd, Blue the Labradoodle, Maisie the Westie and Ruby the Australian Shepherd were very popular and pupils signed up to a timetable of sessions in the weeks leading up to their visit.





Twenty minutes chilling out with a friendly, cuddly, furry companion relaxed the pupils and gave them a much needed break from the pressure of studying. Everyone was delighted with the opportunity and there were some very happy faces returning to their desks!

The sessions were a great success with everyone commenting on how much better they felt afterwards. We intend for this to become an annual event during study leave from now on.

Kincorth Academy

Kincorth Academy will be merging with Torry Academy, moving to a brand new school, Lochside Academy, in the summer, this past term has been busy with behind-the-scenes preparation for the new school but here is our latest update of activities in the library:



XP Club – Side Quests

In our last newsletter, we had launched a video game club, called XP (keen gamers will know that this stands for Experience Points, which is a common feature of video games). We had a different game each week, with a challenge to be completed, the top players gaining most points towards the overall leaderboard. We also had a House Point leaderboard so the points gained also go towards a House Total. With the success of this project, we (being Mr Clark and the library committee of 4 senior pupils) came up with an idea to encourage pupils to take part in some of the other activities in the library by introducing “Side Quests”. A side quest is common in a lot of video games where you can go off of the main aim of the game for little side missions, but that will reward you.

So, for example, for Drop Everything And Read on Thursdays, any pupil who comes into the library to take part in this club will gain 15XP towards their overall score. And for Film Club, if you sign up to the film club Google Classroom and answered questions about the movie, you would also gain bonus XP for each question answered correctly.

This is in its early stages, but it was well received and there were a few pupils coming to take part in the other clubs (particularly Drop Everything And Read) who wouldn't usually have. We will definitely be looking to take this concept forward to Lochside Academy.

Book Connections

Thanks to a successful application made by the school library and public library service to the School Library Improvement Fund (SLIF), we launched a project called Book Connections, with the broad aim of being an intergenerational shared reading project. We decided to run the project with a group of S3 pupils reading to pupils from Abbotswell Nursery. They decided on the picture books that we should read with the pupils, then spent time preparing for the sessions by becoming familiar with the books and picking out elements of it to exaggerate and ask the nursery pupils questions about. Below are some pictures of the Shared Reading in action, it has been really good to see the S3 group, a group of reluctant readers and learners, engaging with the young people. They weren't always spending time reading with the pupils (the glorious sunshine that we had for the run of the project meant that the kids were wanting to run around outside a lot!) but they took part in the games outside, and the nursery staff were impressed with how well they engaged with the kids. The project is almost finished, they will be reading once more with the pupils and then will have a celebration event at the school library with all the nursery pupils and the S3s getting a wee gift for their participation in the project. The S3s will also be receiving Saltire Certificates.



Patron of Reading – Alan Bissett

Alan Bissett visited the school in December for the first time since becoming our Patron of Reading. He met with Higher English pupils for a workshop on how to start a story, worked with a group of S3 pupils on using dialect in creative writing, and gave a talk and Q&As to our S1 pupils. He also announced the winning stories of the creative writing competition that he launched before the summer. His next visit will be scheduled for after the summer at Lochside Academy, and after the success of the last writing competition, we hope to run it again.



Kincorth Academy Radio – New Shows

Kincorth Academy Radio has had some new shows added to the roster, with DAG Gamers and Flower Power among the newer shows. We said farewell to the longest running podcast in the school, THAT side of the internet, as Adam and Craig have finished school. Craig also interviewed Alan Bissett while he was in school for his Patron of Reading visit which is well worth a listen. All the shows can be listened to at www.mixcloud.com/kincorthacademy

Into Film – Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2018 – Film-making workshop

We snapped up an opportunity presented by Into Film, who provide films and resources for schools who run film clubs, to take a group of pupils along to learn some film-making skills and create a film for the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2018 with the theme of “Beginnings”. Harlaw Academy Library hosted the workshop with film-makers leading a session looking at examples of short films with a mental health theme in the morning and then in the afternoon turning their hands to making their own films, as part of a collaborative movie to be shown at the festival.

The finished film can be seen here <https://www.intofilm.org/news-and-views/articles/scottish-mental-health-arts-festival> and they did a really good job in managing to make some really creative films within the space of a few hours!

What next: Well, that’s it for Kincorth Academy Library.... We’re in the process of getting ready for moving over to Lochside Academy so its all very busy with the planning and preparations for that... We’ll have pictures of the new space in the next newsletter.

Bridge of Don Academy

Reading outside the box



At the start of the year all S1 pupils got the chance to play the Reading Game. This was an attempt to encourage pupils to expand their reading horizons and involved a class moving around different genre zones in the Library, evaluating titles. We also decided to invite an author into school to talk about the wide variety of teen/YA titles available. Christina Buchan writes for a teen audience and her first book, *Minty* is a contemporary ghost story set in Fife. She gave a highly entertaining talk about her own work and inspiration and then went on to highlight other titles that she had enjoyed. Feedback from pupils was very positive and our copies of *Minty* were in great demand. Hopefully pupils also now have a better idea of what is available and will be more adventurous in their choice of reading.

World Book Day



This year we decided to ask teachers and support staff to choose their all-time favourite book. We had a good response. The results ranged from classics such as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *The Handmaid's Tale* to titles from childhood such as *The Secret Garden* and *The Magic Faraway Tree*. All were on display in the Library and pupils enjoyed seeing what their teachers had chosen.

The competition we ran involved pupils trying to work out book titles from picture clues and attracted a good number of entries.

Grampian Children's Book Award

As in previous years, we had a class participating in the GCBA scheme. All pupils read at least one of the shortlisted titles (quite a few read all six) and then went on to enter the poster and book review competitions and attend the Award Ceremony at the University of Aberdeen. Unfortunately we did not have any overall winners this year but two of our entries got into the final round of judging. The posters are now decorating the library wall, considerably brightening up the place.



Ongoing activities- Shelf Help and #Read for Empathy

Bridge of Don Academy is one of the schools involved in the *Healthy Libraries: Shelf Help and the School library* project which looks at the best way to promote and develop an area in the Library to support the health and wellbeing needs of young people. We already had a limited Shelf Help section but thanks to the project we will shortly be in receipt of new titles and can then begin the process of promoting these resources to pupils and staff in collaboration with Guidance.

We are also planning to celebrate Empathy Day on the 12th June and hope to involve pupils and staff in *#read for empathy*. We will have a display of books in the library that encourage empathy in the reader and are running a competition where pupils recommend a book that has helped them understand someone else and a sentence describing why they recommend it. On Empathy Day all entries will be displayed on an Empathy Wall with pupils with the best entries receiving a prize.

Mrs G Marshall / Mrs P Kennedy

Harlaw Academy

Into Film project

When I was first contacted back in February about taking part in a filmmaking project for the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2018, I couldn't believe my luck. It was the perfect way to raise awareness of mental health issues and promote the fiction and non-fiction resources recently bought for our Shelf Help collection.

Twenty-three pupils from our film club (mainly S1s with a few S2s in the mix) were joined by 16 pupils from Kincorth Academy accompanied by their film club leader, Alan Clark. Our session was led by film maker Yasmin Al-Hadithi and Kirsty Gallacher from Into Film Scotland. In the morning session Yasmin first asked pupils to rate how they felt about the mental health issues facing young people, this got everyone thinking and talking from the start. Then it was film time and we all sat down to watch and rate a range of different films: documentaries, sound bites, short films, and animation. Some were pretty straightforward, others relied on symbolism and imagery to get their message across.



The pupils really enjoyed this and their comments on the films they watched showed awareness and insight.



After lunch, the pupils were split up into different groups. One group worked with me to film pupils against the green screen talking directly to the camera about their thoughts on a range of issues. As well as coming up with their own questions and answers they'd to think of suitable backgrounds. Kirsty worked with a group following the 5-4-3-2-1 filmmaking technique. Another group worked on animation using modelling

clay with Alan. Yasmin worked with the final group creating light box animation. The afternoon flew by.

It was a great success and the feedback was very positive:

"I learned that mental health is not something you can always see. I do feel more aware of mental health issues."

"I learned that mental health issues are very common and that we must support and help those with them."

"I enjoyed making the films and would maybe do it again."

We watched the finished film as part of our Mental Health Awareness week events. You can watch the film here <https://www.mhfestival.com/news/22-talking-heads/445-youth-perspective-into-film-scotland>

I look forward to showing the film at our ASG Health group's Know More parental engagement event in September where I'll also be showcasing our Shelf Help resources.

Bucksburn Academy

PAWS Event

To help pupils relax and de-stress, the library was able to hold some "PAWS against Stress" sessions during both the estimate and actual exam period. Canine Concern Scotland Trust were able to send along 1 dog in February and 3 dogs in May.

A number of pupils came along to the sessions and were able to cuddle and relax with the help of their four footed friends. We hope to run similar sessions again during the new academic year.



Reading Dog



Since September Bruno the reading dog has been coming into the library to help the pupils gain confidence in their reading. A number of pupils have had the opportunity to read to Bruno every fortnight. They read for about 15 – 20 minutes while Bruno relaxes and listens beside them. Bruno will continue his visits to the library in the coming session.



Grampian Children's Book Awards 2018

Two S2 classes took part in the Grampian Children's Book Awards this year. The pupils read the first few chapters of each of the longlisted books and voted for the ones they wanted to see on the shortlist. When the shortlist had been announced they were able to work their way through as many of the books as they could manage.

The pupils were encouraged to take part in at least one of the competitions open to them as part of the award. Although we didn't have any overall winners some of the pupils made it into the top 3 for the city schools.

Around about 40 pupils along with 3 members of the English Department came to the award ceremony at Aberdeen University where they were entertained by the authors who were able to participate in the ceremony.

We hope to take part again next year and will decide in August which of the S2 English classes will get this fantastic opportunity.



News Round- Up

National Strategy for School Libraries

In support of the development of the National Strategy for School Libraries, SLIC is seeking case studies from all local authorities that highlight examples of good and innovative practise in library services for schools. Centred around the themes of,

- Curriculum, Learner Journey and Developing the Young Workforce
- Family Learning, Literacy and Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Information, Digital Literacy & Digital Creativity
- Standards, Leadership Qualities and Service Models

Particularly, examples of collaboration between nurseries or primaries and public library systems would be most welcome, although all will be of benefit. SLIC is building a bank of case studies that will help to guide school libraries, schools, and public libraries to develop the best offer possible for pupils. Each example should be no more than 300 words, and any supporting photographs accompanied by appropriate permissions for use by SLIC. Examples of case studies may be found on the SLIC website's HGIOSL page.

Case studies to be returned by 2nd July 2018 to s.harmon@scottishlibraries.org copying Yvonne in for information.