

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are hugely excited to let you know that *World Book Day* will be held on **Thursday 2 March 2023** and is going to be filled with exciting reading experiences for our students!

Take a look at our MHS World Book Day 2023 newsletter for information about how we will be celebrating the day, competitions to enter, and links to the £1 digital book tokens. On the day itself, why not take the opportunity to talk to your child about your favourite book from the past or a book you have recently enjoyed?

Overleaf is a list of 20 books specially selected by our English Department as the 'must read' texts for young people. Students are asked to choose 16 of these 20 and read them before they finish their studies at MHS.

If your child would like to participate in this challenge, they need to pick up a passbook from The Hub (the school library). The passbook is designed to allow them to complete a short review of each book and also to enable you to add your signature to verify that they have completed the book. Spirit Points will be awarded after each book has been read. A prize and certificate will be issued when the competition has been completed and 16 pages of the passbook have been filled.

Students are encouraged to read at their own pace and to then show Ms Goodall (librarian) their passbook after they have read each text in order to be awarded Spirit Points. All of the texts are available to be borrowed from the school library, or can be found on *The Hub Online* (our eLibrary). There is no requirement for students to read the texts in a particular set order but recommended reading levels have been included should you wish to monitor the appropriacy of each text. The shortlisted books can be found on the pages that follow.

Finally, a reminder about the importance of reading regularly at home. Consider how just 15 minutes of reading every day can help to discover the world and unlock doors for our young people. There is a 'Reading Support' page on the school website for parents under the 'Parents' tab which provides lots of information and tips, and conversation starters to help create a meaningful and interesting dialogue about reading.

Thank you for your support in encouraging reading.

Best wishes,

Miss K Shakeshaft

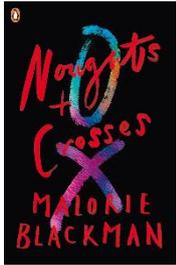
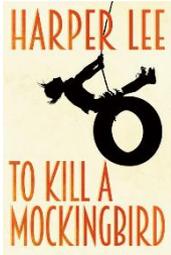
[Literacy Lead at Marple Hall School]

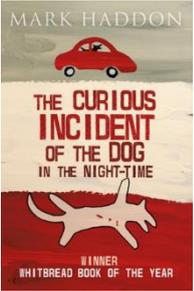
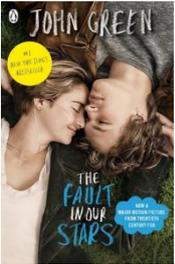
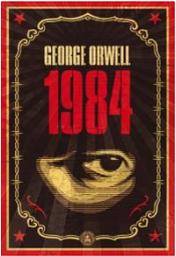
*Our Community — Our Future*

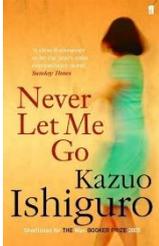
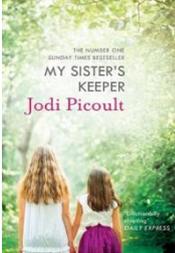
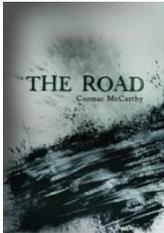
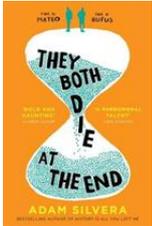
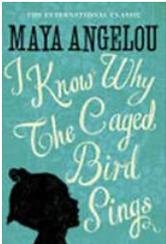
**A place of excellence where learners are proud of their school and confident of success**

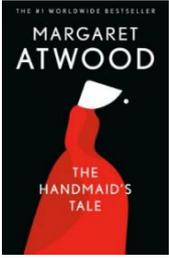
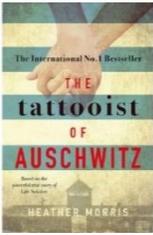
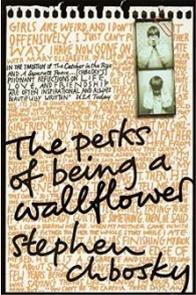


| What's the title?   | Who's the author?      | What's it about?   |
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| <p>The 'Harry Potter' series</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS3</b></p>   | <p>J. K. Rowling</p>   | <p>Life isn't much fun at number four Privet Drive, at least not for Harry Potter, living under the stairs in a cupboard full of spiders, but all of that is about to change. On the eve of Harry's eleventh birthday the letters start arriving; letters written in emerald green ink on yellowing parchment with an unmistakable letter H on purple wax seals. Because Harry Potter is no ordinary boy, he is the boy who lived, the wizard whose name everyone in the magical world knows and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin and life for Harry Potter will never be the same again.</p>   |
| <p>The Hunger Games (Trilogy)</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS3</b></p> | <p>Suzanne Collins</p> | <p>Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed.</p> <p>When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.</p>  |
| <p>The Book Thief</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS3</b></p>            | <p>Mark Zusak</p>      | <p>It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier - and will become busier still.</p> <p>By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found.</p> <p>But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.</p> |

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| <p>Ready Player One</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p>              | <p>Ernest Cline</p>     | <p>A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready? It's the year 2044, and the real world has become an ugly place. We're out of oil. We've wrecked the climate. Famine, poverty, and disease are widespread.</p> <p>Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia where you can be anything you want to be, where you can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets. For years, millions have struggled fruitlessly to attain this prize. And then Wade stumbles onto the key to the first puzzle.</p> |
| <p>His Dark Materials (Trilogy)</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p> | <p>Philip Pullman</p>   | <p>Lyra Belacqua lives half-wild and carefree among the scholars of Jordan College, with her daemon, Pantalaimon, always by her side.</p> <p>But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle – a struggle born of stolen children, witch clans and armoured bears.</p> <p>As she hurtles towards danger in the cold far North, Lyra never suspects the shocking truth: she alone is destined to win, or to lose, the biggest battle imaginable.</p>   |
| <p>Noughts and Crosses</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p>         | <p>Malorie Blackman</p> | <p>Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross — a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought — a “colourless” member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. In this alternate universe, it is forbidden for Crosses and Noughts to engage in a relationship with each other.</p>   |
| <p>To Kill A Mockingbird</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p>       | <p>Harper Lee</p>       | <p>Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a Mockingbird. Lawyer Atticus Finch gives this advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s.</p>   |

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| <p>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p> | <p>Mark Haddon</p>   | <p>Christopher is 15 and lives in Swindon with his father. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. He is obsessed with maths, science and Sherlock Holmes but finds it hard to understand other people. When he discovers a dead dog on a neighbour's lawn he decides to solve the mystery and write a detective thriller about it. As in all good detective stories, however, the more he unearths, the deeper the mystery gets - for both Christopher and the rest of his family.</p> |
| <p>The Diary of a Young Girl</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p>                        | <p>Anne Frank</p>    | <p>In Amsterdam, in the summer of 1942, the Nazis forced teenager Anne Frank and her family into hiding. For over two years, they, another family and a German dentist lived in a 'secret annexe', fearing discovery. All that time, Anne kept a diary. Since its publication in 1947, Anne Frank's diary has been read by tens of millions of people.</p>  |
| <p>The Fault in our Stars</p>  <p>Reading age: KS3</p>                          | <p>John Green</p>    | <p>Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p> <p>Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw.</p>  |
| <p>1984</p>  <p>Reading age: KS4</p>  | <p>George Orwell</p> | <p>Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101. . .</p> <p>1984 is George Orwell's terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everything and everyone is slave to a tyrannical regime.</p>  |

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| <p>Never Let Me Go</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>            | <p>Kazuo Ishiguro</p>  | <p>Friends Kathy, Tommy and Ruth grow up together at a seemingly idyllic boarding school in the English countryside. When they leave the school and the horrible truth of their true purpose is revealed to them, they must simultaneously confront deep-seated feelings of love, jealousy and betrayal that threaten to tear their friendship asunder.</p>  |
| <p>My Sister's Keeper</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>         | <p>Jodi Picoult</p>    | <p>In all thirteen years of Anna's life, her parents have never given her a choice: she was born to be her sister Kate's bone marrow donor and she has always given Kate everything she needs. But when Anna is told Kate needs a new kidney, she begins to question how much she should be prepared to do to save the older sibling she has always been defined by. So Anna makes a decision that will change their family forever - perhaps even fatally for the sister she loves.</p> |
| <p>The Road</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>                 | <p>Cormac McCarthy</p> | <p>In a post-apocalyptic world, a father must protect his son from a group of cannibals who have menaced the streets. They plan to head south where there is a hospitable environment to live in.</p>  |
| <p>They Both Die at the End</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p> | <p>Adam Silvera</p>    | <p>On September 5th, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: they're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: there's an app for that. It's called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure - to live a lifetime in a single day.</p>     |
| <p>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</p>                          | <p>Maya Angelou</p>    | <p>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, the first of seven autobiographical works by American writer Maya Angelou, published in 1969. The book chronicles her life from age 3 through age 16, recounting an unsettled and sometimes traumatic childhood.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>  |                        |   |
| <p>The Handmaid's Tale</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>           | <p>Margaret Atwood</p> | <p>An unforgettable portrait of defiance and authoritarian rule, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> is a classic dystopian vision of a terrifyingly believable future. A devastatingly powerful exploration of female oppression with an all-too chilling resonance for our times.</p>  |
| <p>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>    | <p>Heather Morris</p>  | <p>The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp.</p>  |
| <p>Perks of Being a Wallflower</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p> | <p>Stephen Chbosky</p> | <p>Charlie is a shy, introspective teenager, who prefers to look on from the side-lines, and has his own unique perspective on the high school world he sees around him. But Charlie can't remain a 'wallflower' on the fringes of things forever, and through a distinctive narrative voice, he documents his experiences as he begins to encounter all the challenges of growing up.</p> <p>Charlie's journey of self-discovery is both funny and deeply moving. This wistful, sensitive novel perfectly captures the uncertainty and excitement of adolescence, and has become a deserving modern classic.</p> |
| <p>Great Expectations</p>  <p><b>Reading age: KS4</b></p>          | <p>Charles Dickens</p> | <p><i>Great Expectations</i> follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.</p>   |