

Reading at Copleston

All pupils are enrolled as members of the **school library**, and encouraged to read for pleasure. The library has a very wide stock, including easy readers, audio books and the classics. New fiction is constantly being purchased, so there is always something new in the library! Our librarians are extremely knowledgeable and always able to recommend books to students, whatever their interest might be.

The Library is open throughout the day, and students can visit it before school, at break, lunchtime and after school to borrow and return books. Our library system uses eclipse.NET, an interactive programme which enables student to write (and read) reviews of recommended books: the programme is accessible from any PC in the school. We also have a mobile library which visits the coffee bar at lunchtimes, making borrowing books that much easier!

At **Key Stage Three**, all pupils have regular timetabled library visits as part of their English lessons, giving them the opportunity to browse, choose and borrow books. All Key Stage Three pupils also take part in the **Copleston Reading Challenge** for which they can earn certificates for reading books by a wide variety of authors in different genres. English teachers regularly set private reading as a homework task to encourage students to read at home. We also have **“Reading Weeks”** at intervals throughout the year, so that everyone has a chance to settle down and just read in their English lessons.

The library staff run a wide range of **library activities** from Book Mastermind competitions for year 7 pupils (and staff!), through various award groups (open to pupils across the age range) to author visits at various times of the year. As many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to hear authors talking about their books and to take part in writing workshops given by those authors.

The **Learning Support Department**, in conjunction with the English Department provides support for weaker readers in a variety of ways. All pupils in Key Stage Three are regularly screened in spelling and reading comprehension using standardised tests, and this means that we are able to identify accurately those for whom reading is difficult. Our range of intervention strategies means we can respond promptly when pupils are falling behind with reading:

- **Lexia Classes:** these are aimed at building the reading skills of weaker readers by using a computerised reading programme, accessible both from home and at school. English teachers also use materials from the Lexia programme with all students in their classes as the need arises.
- **Literacy Clubs:** these are run by an experienced member of the English team, supported by CTAs, and are offered to those who need more support. Typically, students attending after school Literacy Clubs will work on Lexia and do some more general literacy work with the English teacher which will be aimed at improving skills and vocabulary.
- **Toe by Toe classes:** these aim to consolidate the phonic/decoding skills that are so important to accurate reading. Toe by Toe sessions for selected students are run by CTAs on a one-to-one or very small group basis.

Weaker readers in Year 9 are withdrawn from lessons for extra literacy support from members of the English team, and in Years 10 and 11, we have an English Support option designed to boost the literacy performance of weaker students, not just in English, but in other optional subjects as well.