THE NSB TRUST

Northampton School for Boys
Northampton School

BEYOND THE PAGES

2026-27

Term 1

A termly newsletter to support with reading at home and to help promote our reading culture across The NSB Trust.





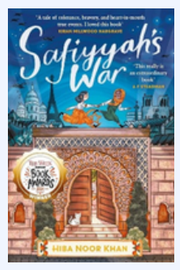


Welcome to the first edition of this academic year's NSB Trust reading newsletter. This newsletter is particularly focused on Oracy and talking points. As always, we would welcome any feedback on the newsletter; please email jbarlow@nsbtrust.school

1 READING AT THE NSB TRUST

Last term, year 7 made an extremely positive start to reading and are fully immersed in the reading culture of the NSB Trust. This has included the annual Year 7 book gifts, which were distributed on the first day of term and continued into weekly library lessons as part of the English curriculum. These weekly lessons are designed to foster a love of reading and allow Trust staff to work with students to support their reading development. The academic year has started strongly, with our most voracious readers in year 7 and 8 across the Trust reading in excess of 4.5 million words already! Well done to everyone!



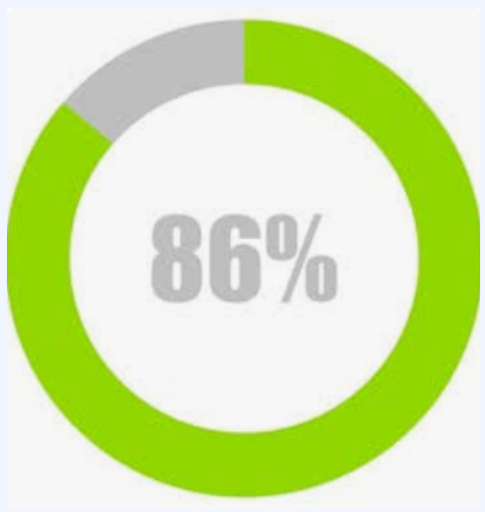






2 TOP TIPS FOR READING AT HOME

A recent Reading Agency survey found that regular readers were 86% more likely to report feeling part of a community, compared to non-readers. Coupled with the news report regarding Oracy below, we recommend some texts on page 3 that might spark conversation and discussion at home. Let us know if you have a recommendation you'd like to share too!



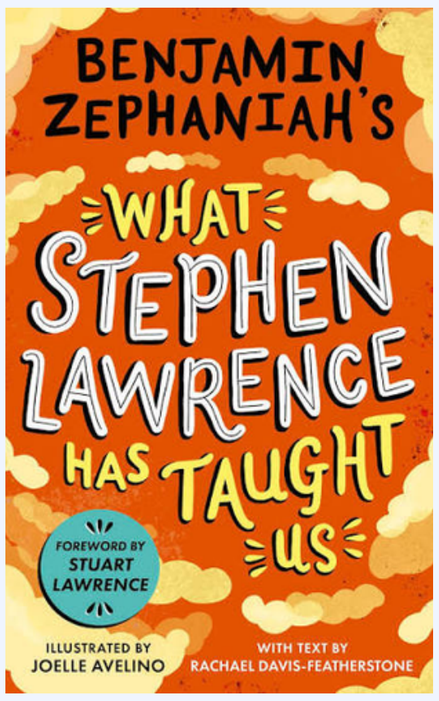
3 READING IN THE NEWS

Recent headlines have been dominated by conversations about the importance of strong communication skills and the role that speaking and listening will continue to play in a changing world and labour market. Recently, the Education Secretary, Lucy Powell, emphasised the importance of Oracy as part of every child's educational entitlement. She said: "With AI on the rise, we need to go harder on the skills that make us human, like oracy." Oracy is delivered as a bespoke subject at NSB within Y9, and is interwoven through the broader curriculum, PSHE and personal development activities across the Trust. We will continue to use Oracy as a way to "light up every classroom" and build strong communicators, with the knowledge and skills to use language to debate, discuss and build deep connections.

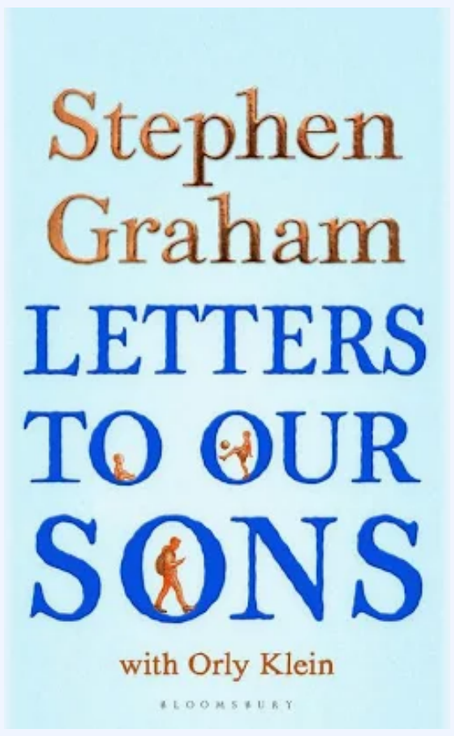


TALKING POINTS...

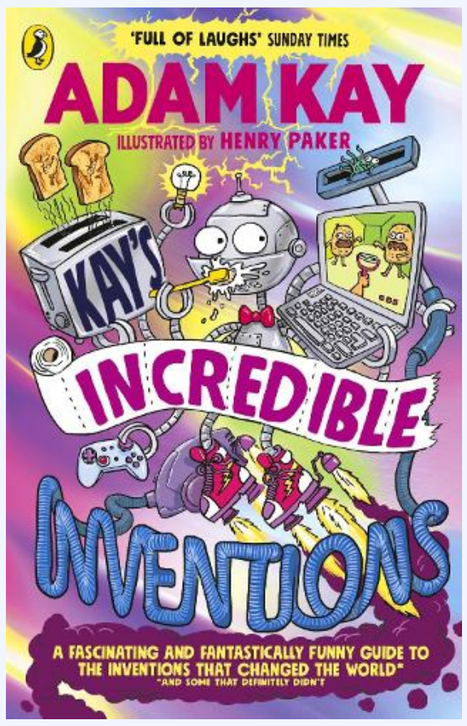
Following the recent announcements about the prominence and importance of Oracy in future curriculum reforms from the Department for Education, we share some books which we hope will spark conversation and discussion at home.



This new illustrated version of Benjamin Zephaniah's famous poem features information and context to explain the poem and the issues it explores. Powerful and poignant, this edition has been longlisted as one of Peter's Books "Children's Books of the Year 2027".



Following the national debate about masculinity prompted by the success of TV show 'Adolescence' last year, Stephen Graham publishes a collection of letters written by fathers in a wide range of circumstances. Designed to encourage better dialogue between male figures, there are some incredibly thought-provoking entries in this moving book, some of which are better suited to older readers.



Adam Kay's books are all bestsellers and this book focuses on inventions that have changed the world and the way we live. Usually bizarre, these short vignettes and facts are great for more reluctant readers to read and share, without realising they are reading quite a lot of challenging content!

