



St Mary  
Magdalene  
Academy

news



## It's All About Literacy!

'When do YOU feel most free?' That's the question we asked our students on National Writing Day last week.

National Writing Day is an annual celebration that aims to inspire people across the UK to get writing and tell their own stories. For the day, 30 of our young writers were treated to a creative workshop with SMMA English teacher and resident author Kate Ashley – and they were certainly inspired.

Year 7's Katie Castle says 'I enjoyed the workshop very much. It was great to create my own story in such a fun and informative environment! I definitely feel inspired to start writing more in my own time.' Student Alice Lester adds, 'It was really fun and useful. I liked how interactive it was and that we got to share our ideas with each other.'

Elsewhere in school, students have been writing beautiful poems about feeling free, and taking part in many other inspiring Literacy-themed events. [Visit our website for more pictures and to read the Barnes family poem 'Freedom'...](#)

*Image: Pupils who shadowed the Carnegie Medal for Children's Literature take part in the Carnegie awards ceremony in June.*



## **Year 7 Go Behind Bars at Charles Dickens Museum.**

Our Year 7 English students have been studying *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. This month, 18 pupils visited the Dickens Museum to learn about the man behind the book. Highlights included seeing the original manuscript, standing behind the bars from the Marshalsea debtor's prison where Dickens' father was held, and visiting the rooms in which Dickens lived with his family and wrote his famous works. Student Rocky says, 'I really enjoyed learning about Charles Dickens' life and how he wrote his books'. Harley-Dean adds, 'My favourite bit was having a go at the Pepper's ghost illusion which was popular in the Victorian times – it used lights and mirrors to make us look like ghosts!' [See the pictures here...](#)

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## **Year 7 Book Club Treat!**

The Deloitte Year 7 Book Club is one of our longest-running extracurricular activities. In Library sessions led by Deloitte's Arti Kashyap, the club reads and discusses a different novel each term. Last Friday, to celebrate the final meeting of our 11th Book Club, Arti invited the students to a tour of



Deloitte's high tech digital spaces. The pupils enjoyed an introduction to coding and a chance to try out drones and robots! Well done to this year's Book Club. We're now looking forward to meeting a twelfth group of pupils that will get to take part in this brilliant club.

[See the pictures here...](#)



## **Year 8 Meet Author Anthony McGowan.**

On 25 June, Year 8 Literacy classes had a special guest: Anthony McGowan, author of *Brock* – a novel about two young brothers who witness the horrifying killing of a badger. Having read *Brock* in Spring term, our pupils enjoyed the opportunity to quiz the author and hear him read from its sequel, *Rook*. Impressed by their enthusiasm, Anthony gave two books as prizes for the best questions. And in response, our students delivered some well-prepared speeches, praising the author's work and thanking him for his visit. [See the pictures here...](#)

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### **Next week at St Mary Magdalene Academy...**

Thu 12 July – Shakespeare Festival Romeo & Juliet auditions, 3.30–5.00

### **Save the date...**

Mon 16 – Fri 20 July – Activities Week (School closes at 12.30 on Friday)

[Click here to see all term dates for 2017–18...](#)

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## Caught Doing the Right Thing!

Well done to all our students caught doing the right thing in school this term. Congratulations to this week's winner, **Kai Kamara** – please collect your £10 reward from Ms Linsley's office.

**“Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them.”**

– [Lemony Snicket](#) from *Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid*

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