

20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring 2 Week 4

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Event on Thursday 19th March after school. We hope that it was a useful event for you and that you and your child have all of the information you need to support them with their Key Stage 4 Option Choices. If you have any queries about options, please contact us at school.

Orbeez – warning

We would like to inform you that a number of students have brought Orbeez (water beads) into school this week, seemingly in response to a current social media trend.

Orbeez are small, dehydrated beads that expand significantly when exposed to liquid. While they may initially be only a few millimetres in size, they can grow to many times their original size when in contact with water or other fluids.

These items present a potential safety risk. If swallowed, the beads can expand inside the gastrointestinal tract, which may cause harm. There is also a risk of choking if a bead is accidentally inhaled into the airways.

As a result, Orbeez are not permitted on the school site. Any student found in possession of these items will have them confiscated and will receive a detention.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this message with your child and ensuring that these items are not brought into school.

School Sport Update

Our league winning **Year 7 netball team** have been back in action this week, in a closely fought contest with Outwood Academy Hindley. The girls fought well and maintained their 100% record, running out 3-1 winners. Well played girls!



 **CARING, LEARNING
AND SUCCEEDING**

Rugby pitch

In other sport news, I'm delighted to report that our rugby pitch is now marked out and the rugby posts are being installed and cemented in this weekend, ahead of our first home rugby match for our Year 10 team next week. We are really looking forward to hosting more games at home through this development in our facilities at school.

Reading

As I said last week, we are so very grateful to everyone for their kindness and generosity on World Book Day. As you are aware, we embraced the opportunity to share the gift of reading and our fundraising total is now at **£2000!** We all understand the value and power of reading for everyone and we are so proud of the generosity of our school community which helps us to share that power with our partners in Uganda.

The Spring Edition of our 'Lowton Loves Reading' newsletter is attached to this letter. I hope you enjoy it.

Easter holidays information

School closes for the Easter break at 2.50pm on Thursday 2nd April and reopens for the summer term on Monday 20th April.

Thank you, as always, for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,
Jane Galbraith
Headteacher



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READING

SPRING TERM Jan-Apr 2026

SPRING

newsletter



Welcome to our Spring edition of 'Lowton Loves Reading'

The winter months feel like a long time ago. The last time we wrote to you, it was November and the run up to Christmas. Since then, we have held a successful book fair in school and have celebrated World Book Day. Read on for further information & updates.

WHY DOES READING MATTER?

Reading has important and far-reaching benefits. When children and young people enjoy reading, they are more likely to create a habit and read more often which in turn will help to build vital reading skills and bring with it a wider range of benefits.

Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy, support learning and can build a child's confidence. Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination and provide escape as well as inspire creativity. Reading can expand horizons. A book can provide children with a way to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. Whether that's through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.

Encourage your child to pick up a book today!



WEBSITES & resources

Project Gutenberg is a library of over 75,000 free eBooks. This website is particularly useful for finding classic literature texts (Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen) free of copyright.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

The School Reading List offers a wide range of fiction, nonfiction, classic, contemporary and diverse titles. These lists promote a love of reading and reading for pleasure amongst teens.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>

WORLD BOOK
DAY 2026



Thursday 5th March 2026 World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, we embraced the opportunity to share the gift of reading. Across the school, pupils and staff took part in activities that celebrated the joy and importance of books in our lives. Our non-uniform fundraising event also allowed us to support the Ugandan orphanage by helping to provide books and educational resources for the children there. This was a wonderful example of our pupils living out the values of generosity and social action. On the day, we raised over £1500 and we would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support and generosity.

For further details about World Book Day please see the official website: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>



Each year in school, as part of our first Enrichment Day, we invite Quantum Theatre Group into school to present a version of A Christmas Carol live to our Year 11s. This November saw the novella performed by a small group of talented actors in our drama studio complete with musical accompaniment and decorative staging.

Seeing a GCSE text brought to life helps students understand key themes, connect emotionally, engage fully, and think critically about the original text.

POETRY news!

PUBLISHED POETS AT LOWTON!

We had some wonderful news at the end of the last term regarding a national poetry competition.

The following students will all be published in a poetry anthology which will be stocked in our Reading Room.

Niyla Ward	Conah Pye
Kayden Drummond	Nathan Olele
Darcie James	Kemilia Igue
Wonder Ojo	Vicky Zhu
Hannah Williams	Liam Connor
Dara Eniolorunfe	Alisha Sesay Macauley
Rodyna Ibrahim	Millie Taylor
Charlie Neale	Gishomika Sivakumar
Abiyah Binu	Isla Myerscough
	Dayane Martins

READING recommendations

Follow the links for some recommended reads for this Spring Term

Words for Life

Discover eight books to inspire your teenager to spend time with a book. Each book has been chosen because it explores themes of wellbeing or topics that will provoke discussion, elicit empathy and allow teenagers a moment of reflection. [Click to follow the link.](#)

LISTENING BOOKS

If you have a child in your life who enjoys films and TV shows, but is not so sure about reading, why not introduce them to books featuring stories they already know and love from the screen? The familiarity of the characters and plot is likely to pique their interest, while making them more comfortable with exploring stories through a different medium.

[Click to follow the link.](#)

Don't forget our Reading Room!
There really is a book for everyone...
Come and join us at lunchtimes to find yours!

AUTHOR profile

Students in Year 8 have been enjoying studying dystopian fiction during the Spring Term.

As part of the unit, they look at extracts from 'The Hunger Games' written by Suzanne Collins.

She was in 1962 and is an American author and television writer who is best known as the author of the young adult dystopian book series The Hunger Games. Collins began her writing career in 1991. She is also the author of the children's fantasy series The Underland Chronicles.



You can find out more about Suzanne Collins and her work here:

<https://www.suzannecollinsbooks.com/>

SPARX winners

Students topping the leaderboards this month:

Top 3 in year 7

Keira Jackson

Elizabeth Olawale

Gishomika Sivakumar

Top 3 in year 8

Alexis Mbah

Jacob Wilcox

Wonder Ojo

Please encourage your child to read at home using Sparx Reader

