

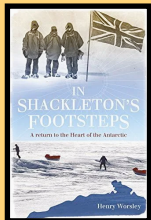
READING NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Welcome to our reading newsletter

We'd love for you and your family to have a browse - you might just discover your next great read!

Happy reading! - Ms. Lawlor



Headteacher Book Review

In Shackleton's Footsteps:
A Return to the Heart of the Antarctic
by Henry Worsley

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel across the icy wilderness of Antarctica? *In Shackleton's Footsteps* takes readers on an amazing real-life adventure inspired by one of the greatest explorers in history, Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922).

I chose this book because Shackleton is one of my heroes. I have enjoyed reading about his life and expeditions before, but this book offers a fresh and exciting perspective. The author, Henry Worsley, was not only an explorer and army officer but also a descendant of one of Shackleton's crew members. Even more interesting, every member of Worsley's team had a family connection to the men who joined Shackleton on his 1908 Nimrod Expedition.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Shackleton's journey, Worsley and his team follow the same route across Antarctica. The book compares the original expedition with the modern expedition in 2008. Even though a whole century had passed, the explorers still faced many of the same challenges, including freezing temperatures, exhaustion, and the loneliness of the Antarctic landscape.

This book is full of adventure, courage, and determination. It shows how strong people can be when facing difficult situations. One of the most memorable parts of the story is learning how Shackleton and his men came within just 97 miles of the South Pole before turning back. Although it must have been a heartbreaking decision, Shackleton chose to save his team rather than risk their lives. His leadership and bravery make him an inspiring role model.

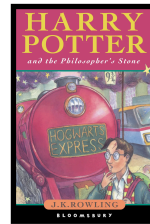
I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys true stories about exploration, teamwork, and overcoming challenges.

Staff Favourites

Gowerton Site Manager, Mr Saunders, recommends these books for your summer holidays:

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

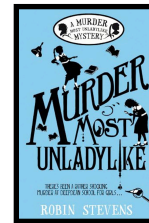
An orphaned boy discovers magical heritage, attends Hogwarts, forms friendships, and learns courage and belonging.



Pupil Picks

Poppy Sampson in Year 11 recommends the following series of books that she enjoyed during her time in Gowerton:

A Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens



Two schoolgirls secretly investigate a suspicious death at boarding school, uncovering lies, danger and murder in 1930s England.

Billy Clarke, a member of Gowerton's Book Club, recommends the club's current novel (which we are due to finish next week!):

The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery

Follow a lonely boy discovering magical creatures, friendship, and secrets threatening everyone he loves.



BREAKING NEWS

Children's Laureate Wales, Nicola Davies, will visit our Year 7 pupils to inspire a love of reading and writing.

As part of her visit to the school, Nicola Davies will explore writing and nature, encouraging imagination, creativity, and enthusiasm across the year group.

We are incredibly excited to welcome Nicola.

Daniel Morden

We were delighted to welcome storyteller and author Daniel Morden to work with our Year 7 pupils.

Drawing on myths, legends and traditional tales from around the world,

Daniel captivated students with his engaging storytelling and inspired them to explore the power of stories.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for Year 7 to learn from one of Wales's most celebrated storytellers, and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Gowerton Pod Squad

The second episode of the Gowerton Podcast is now live!



Enjoy a reading of an excellent piece of pupil writing, an interview with our successful Reading Quiz Team, and the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge.

Tune in to celebrate student achievements and discover your next great read.

Success for our Reading Champions Quiz team!

Our Year 7 Reading Champions Quiz team proudly won the Best Newcomer award at the Wales regional.

Competing brilliantly against experienced schools, the team demonstrated excellent teamwork and knowledge. Their achievement also earned £50 for the school library, helping provide even more fantastic books for students to enjoy.

