



MCA TODAY

THE ENGLISH EDITION



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT?



YEAR 7

This half term, our Year 7 students are focusing on descriptive writing. They are developing their use of figurative language, experimenting with varied sentence structures, and building ambitious vocabulary. Using *Romeo and Juliet* as a stimulus, students are bringing their ideas to life with creativity and flair — we're excited to see their imaginations at work!

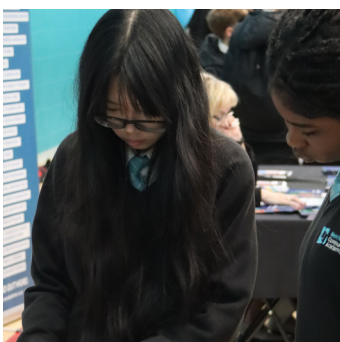
This half term, our Year 8 students studied *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. This half term, they are delving deeper into the text, exploring key sections in detail. Students will be focusing on important themes and analysing key quotations, developing their understanding and critical thinking as they engage with this powerful and thought-provoking novel.

YEAR 8



YEAR 9

This term, our Year 9 students are studying Shakespeare's *Othello*. They'll be exploring key extracts, examining important themes, and developing their skills in close language analysis. An exciting opportunity to engage with one of Shakespeare's most powerful tragedies — we're looking forward to seeing their ideas develop!



YEAR 10

Our Year 10 students have just begun their study of Macbeth. They are exploring the play through reading, developing their understanding of its historical context, and beginning to analyse key quotes. A fantastic start to this exciting unit — we look forward to seeing their insights grow.



YEAR 11

Our Year 11 students are working incredibly hard as they prepare for their GCSE English exams which start on 11th May. They've been sharpening their language analysis skills, memorising key quotes, and refining their essay writing. Wishing you all the very best of luck — your hard work will pay off!



CELEBRATIONS

A number of our Year 8 students recently submitted poems to the Young Poet Laureate competition. With over 11,000 entries received, the field was narrowed down to just 20 finalists in the North West. We are delighted that Harrison in Year 8 progressed to Stage 2, where he attended a masterclass at Central Library with professional poets and performed his poem to an audience. We now look forward to the final announcement in June — best of luck, Harrison!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr Heap is an English Teacher at MCA. He is currently reading *Tinpot* by Simon Turner. The book uses football as a setting to explore how individuals in positions of authority can sometimes misuse their power, highlighting themes of control and fairness. Mr Heap is loving this book!



One great way to explore English at home with your child is by reading and discussing a poem together. This poem is written by Joseph Coelho, who previously served as the UK Children's Laureate. Why not read the poem together and have a go at the discussion questions below? It's a simple and enjoyable way to build confidence and spark meaningful conversations about language and ideas.

This Is...

**This is fear, tiny little fear.
Not a smile on his face
not a grin, not a cheer.**

**This is joy,
happy, laughing joy.
Chuckling like a rainbow
as playful as a toy.**

**This is sad,
teary, bleary sad.
Heavy like potatoes
feeling pretty bad.**

**This is happy,
smiling, sparkling happy.
Always a bounce in her
step always feeling chatty.**

Discussion Questions

Think about your own personal experiences, linked to this poem.

Have you ever experienced these emotions?

Do you connect with the descriptions Joseph Coelho has written?

Can you think of any other ways to describe these emotions?

Can you think of any other emotions you've experienced that you could write about in this way?

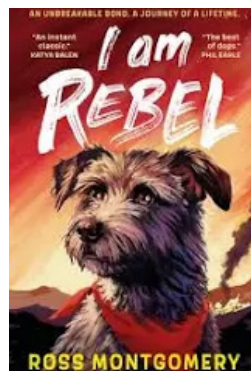
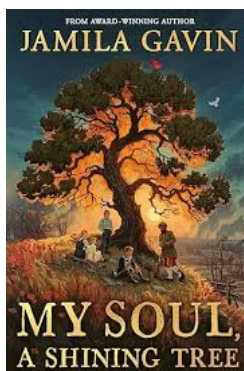
BOOKS WE'RE LOVING THIS WEEK

Here are some brilliant books that have won awards recently, all available at the MCA Library.

My Soul, A Shining Tree– Jamila Gavin

I am Rebel– Ross Montgomery

Seven Million Sunflowers– Malcolm Duffy



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NAOMI E - YEAR 7

Naomi has produced some fantastic work this year, using light and dark imagery in her creative writing. Her ideas are imaginative and thoughtful, and she shows a strong ability to create vivid, engaging descriptions that bring her writing to life.

