

## Lockdown Case Study:

Nicola Pollard, School Librarian, St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate

### Template for gathering evidence on the work and impact of school librarians during lockdown

The week before lockdown all students from Years 7 to 11 were brought, in classes, to the Library to choose a book to borrow; this was the idea of the English department and brought through a whole raft of students who had not been in the Library since their year 8 days. Initially school was closed but Nicola volunteered for the students of Keyworkers rota which she has been doing fortnightly. She had also been going into school two to three times a week for a few hours each time and since May half term has been working for 4 hours each morning; Nicola has not been stuck for jobs to do and has also helped generally with administrative tasks.

Nicola has created several resources for students to use including:

- Downloading various free revision books offered by Caryl Press to cover GCSE English texts, which were shared on One Drive with English department colleagues.
- Creating a PowerPoint for new EPQ students on accessing the Library and other resources.
- Creating another PowerPoint on Harvard referencing, plagiarism and copyright. These sessions would normally be run in small tutor groups with the resources to hand.
- Producing a Lockdown Reading List on theme of isolation and putting it onto Fishersnet, the school's online literary portal
- Writing Facebook posts to promote the free digital library from Renaissance and celebrating Accelerated Reader scheme student successes.
- Sharing online access to magazines including Hodder Reviews, New Scientist and Historyextra with students and staff.
- Maintaining the Cake-a-book club activities during the Carnegie Shadowing period with doorstep delivery and pick-up from school families within walking distance. Nicola also shared emails from the Carnegie website and encouraged reviews to be submitted.

As staff member on the Students of Keyworkers rota, Nicola:

- Set up a YouTube link ready for Chris Bradford's virtual author visit.
- Created a "Make your own board game" activity for Wellness period.
- Created a "Bring your own book" card game using World Book Day £1 books

Looking ahead to September, Nicola has created a summer reading list for the incoming Year 7 featuring recent additions to library stock and school favourites; this list will go into packs for parents. She has also produced a Library information page for the Year 7 booklet.

In addition to resources, Nicola has been giving practical advice to students and staff.

- Carnegie Shadowing scheme: she has kept in contact with students in the group and prompted them to write reviews on their reads.
- Renaissance Learning Digital Library: Nicola took advantage of the free subscription until the end of August, and shared the link with parents on website and Facebook.
- Accelerated Reader quizzes: she encouraged year 7 to continue quizzing at home using link on school website.
- Nicola also encouraged staff reading for pleasure and issued them books.

Nicola has received a lot of gratitude from students and staff, and the Sixth formers have been especially pleased to have received the EPQ resources.