

St Marylebone is a diverse girls' comprehensive school in Inner-London. We are determined that no student leave the school without a lifelong love of reading.

We use a variety of strategies to achieve this. At the annual prize-giving, every prize is a book. Form groups have 'Wordy Wednesdays' (where they read and discuss a 'poem of the week') and 'News Tues' (where students read a student-made news bulletin).

English lessons begin with silent reading, and pupils have fortnightly reading lessons in the library, where lower-ability students are supported by Sixth Form mentors. We also run an annual 'Reading Week'. Previous years have included workshops from Cathy Cassidy, Non Pratt and Harriet Reuter Hapgood.

We ensure all readers are supported, with Bilingual Book Club and a reading-buddy scheme for looked-after children. An annual 'family library evening' invites parents/carers of reluctant readers to an evening of activities to help reading engagement.

We wanted our display to reflect the diverse ways our students are helped to 'fly high with reading'. We invited students to submit portraits of themselves, holding signs that explained how they felt about reading at St Marylebone.

The response was overwhelming: over 150 of the students' drawings are featured in our display. Here are some of the signs:

Bilingual book club helps me feel confident reading in my mother tongue as well as in English.

I have a reading mentor which really boosts my confidence.

The librarian is really friendly and always recommends books.

[The book I received at Prize-Giving] made me start reading non-fiction.

I love library lessons because it is a whole hour of reading with no distractions.

Meeting authors like Cathy Cassidy inspires me to read more.

Once we had our student drawings, we still had two obstacles to overcome: a lack of large display boards and display materials. Luckily, the Art Department donated origami paper, balloons, cups, and wool, whilst the English Department provided some irreparably tattered copies of *Beowulf*. The vision was clear!

7A used pages from *Beowulf* to papier-mâché the balloons, then attached these to the cups to make 13 mini hot-air-balloons and two large ones. 8En1 created origami kites with woollen tails, whilst 9En6 created collaged letters.

Teachers and students used these materials to create an installation throughout the library. As you walk in, you are faced by the 'grass', which displays teachers' favourite books. Above this floats the first big hot-air-balloon, with pupils' self-portraits in the basket. Further into the library is a board decorated as the sky, with printed hot-air balloons on it, each with student portraits in the basket. Above this floats another large hot-air-balloon. Across the ceiling are the mini balloons, with pupil portraits flying inside. Those students who did not get to ride in a balloon can be seen throughout the library flying kites. Finally, at the back of the room, the collaged letters spell out FLYING HIGH WITH READING.

Our display functions as walk-through installation. Therefore, although we have submitted five photos, we would very much appreciate it if you also looked at the video we have sent to wbd@education.co.uk.

We really feel our display represents the students' views of reading in the school and the resourcefulness and collaboration that make Marylebone so special. Thank you for inspiring us to complete this wonderful celebration of reading.









