



# Dinnington High School

Parents' /Carers'

Fun & Learning for Free (or nearly free)

Handbook for the Holidays (& beyond)

How to develop your child's cultural understanding

## Working in Partnership to Educate and Develop Young People

At Dinnington High, we will offer lots of trips and visits over the next 7 years, we will encourage students to read widely, to take part in sports & lots of other after-school activities, and to have opportunities to see live theatre.

However, there will always be more that we wish we could do with them. So our whole staff team have put on their thinking hats and come up with lots of suggestions that would be great for your children to do to widen their experiences and cultural understanding.

They all will be fun and interesting. We get it that when you say 'museum' to young people, they moan but all these museums have thought about how to keep young people interested...and like eating vegetables, sometimes you have to do what is good for you and learn to love them!

We have suggested as many free activities or visits that only require you to pay for parking as we can. Many of them can be reached by public transport. We empathise that the summer holidays can end up being very expensive. So we have only included a few more expensive days out if your pocket will allow.

We hope you use this not just for the summer holidays but over the next few years.



## Things to do this summer, very locally, for free or just travel costs

- Go for a picnic that you make yourself with family or friends.
- Have a walk at Anston Stones and paddle in the stream. (Take a picnic too) S25 4DL, [https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g186364-d7364201-Reviews-Anston\\_Stones\\_Wood-Sheffield\\_South\\_Yorkshire\\_England.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186364-d7364201-Reviews-Anston_Stones_Wood-Sheffield_South_Yorkshire_England.html)
- Langold Lake, plenty of space to walk, play (take a Frisbee), also skate park, fishing lake, another good place to take a picnic. <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/langold-country-park/>
- Borrow books from the library in Dinnington Resource Centre and keep reading. (see the suggestions at the end.)
- Go and walk around your local church. What do you notice? How old is it? What is its layout?
- Look on line and find out how to make a kite...then make and fly one.
- Get a pack of cards and learn some card games with a friend. <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/card-games>
- Catch a bus and go and discover Sheffield City Centre. Have a nose in the Sheffield Town Hall and find the Peace Gardens outside, then to go to see the Women of Steel sculpture outside City Hall. You can also go and discover the Graves Gallery, the Winter Gardens and the Millennium Gallery as they are all near to each other and free of charge. Take a trip on a tram while you are there.
- Find out about Geocaching and take part <https://www.geocaching.com/play> Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices (a smart phone will do). Participants find their way to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. There are lots all around the Dinnington area.



## Local Museums for History and Art (a bus ride away) for Free



Sheffield Winter Garden & Millennium Gallery FREE  
Winter Gardens is the huge greenhouse right in Sheffield City Centre, if you haven't seen it already. It's the largest greenhouse in Europe and home to over 2,000 plants. It's a lovely place for a roam around and for an indoor picnic if it's raining. Can you spot the

animals!? The Millennium Gallery has exhibitions all the time including about the history of the steel industry and it has visiting exhibitions. <http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/millennium-gallery/home>

### Weston Park Museum, S10 2TP, FREE

An indoor day out in Sheffield for kids, Weston Park Museum is fantastic and interactive. Very popular with families, this museum has lots of things to play with, touch, see and do. Explore Sheffield history, learn about animals, build an Igloo, see a Polar Bear, play in the ancient Egyptian room and more. In each gallery there's something for children to do. <http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/weston-park/home>

## Parks (Some with museums too)

Rother Valley Country Park, S26 5PW, Parking £5 (some activities have charges)

The Park has facilities for families to enjoy a brilliant day out in the fresh air. You can eat at the stables cafe or from the catering unit at the free play area, or bring your own picnic or BBQ (*as long as it is off the ground*). The park has plenty of open spaces to play your own outdoor games, walk, cycle visit the play areas, ride on the miniature train, feed the birds and animals at station farm.

The activity centre is located on the main lake and has pedal boats for 4 people, rowing boats for four people and canoes for 1, 2 and 3 people for these will tire out the most active of children. Plenty to do for free but also

Tickhill Duck Pond, Tickhill, Free.



Duck Ponds go back as far as Anglo-Saxon Times and for many centuries provided a water supply for the residents of the village. They are more abundant in East Yorkshire. This is because the chalk hills here could not hold water on its surface, which meant that clay bottomed holes had to be dug to provide a water supply. Many have survived to this day and are now a great place to feed the ducks

and relax. Tickhill duck pond is one of the most impressive duck ponds in the area, It was formerly a mill pond. Visitors can walk or cycle around the edge of the pond, see what remains of the town's medieval castle (now a private residence) and of course feed the many ducks which live here.

Clifton Park & Museum, S65 2BH, pay for parking or catch a bus

Clifton Park & Museum is the best family park in South Yorkshire! Very popular for days out, it boasts a free water splash park, funfair, mini golf, adventure playgrounds, sandpits, cafe and a free museum. The museum is lovely for a rainy day (or any day!) with hands on, interactive rooms and displays for children. Many free activities and clubs run on a regular basis, including object handling and messy play. The adventure playgrounds are large with many different areas, slides, sandpits and equipment for all ages. There is a fun fair, mini golf and the water splash area is very popular in the summer months. Take a picnic!

<http://cliftonpark.org.uk/cpm/homepage/3/visit>

Walk through Endcliffe Park & continue up the Porter Valley, Sheffield,



FREE

<http://www.endcliffepark.co.uk/attractions/>

There are regular attractions and you can visit the memorial to the US AirForce team who gave their lives 75 years ago to save a group of young people in the park, as featured on the BBC. If you are feeling adventurous, continue through Endcliffe Park, across Rustlings Road,

and up the Porter Valley. You will cross the roads that snake back and forth and eventually reach the Forge Dam Café. On the way, you can stop at the Shepherd's Wheel Mill and take a free step back in time. You can turn back sooner at any bridge.

Boston Castle and Park, Rotherham, S60 2BD, FREE, (£1.50 to go to top).

The castle is a small square, two storey building, standing on one of the highest points in Rotherham with fabulous views

[https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/319/boston\\_castle\\_and\\_park](https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/319/boston_castle_and_park)

Boston Castle, Rotherham's first public park, was built as a hunting lodge by the Earl of Effingham in 1775. It acquired the name Boston Castle to commemorate the Boston Tea Party. Boston Castle is now a small visitor attraction with historical information and displays on the history of the Castle, an interactive touch screen, and children's costumes and games. Boston Park covers just over eight hectares and is situated at the end of Boston Castle Grove. The park boasts an attractive garden area and a large open area for informal recreation and walking. At the side of the park is Canklow Woods, an ancient woodland area. Another trip for a picnic.

Botanical Gardens, Sheffield, S10 2LN, free



Situated close to the city centre Sheffield Botanical Gardens were opened in 1836 and cover 19 acres. The Gardens are listed by English Heritage as a Grade II site of special historic and architectural interest. The Glass Pavilions house a wonderful

collection of plants from the temperate areas of the world. There are also over 18 different garden areas based on geographical or botanical themes. Much loved by children of all ages is a rare Grade II listed Bear Pit which can be found hidden between the recently renovated Mediterranean and Himalayan gardens. A well-preserved fossil of a tree-like Lepidodendron (could be 312 million years old) is displayed in the Evolution garden.

Thrybergh Country Park, S65 4NU, pay for parking or catch a bus



This Park has a reservoir and nature reserve, wildlife and a 2-mile lakeside footpath around the water. Children can enjoy indoor and outdoor play areas, plus an ice cream parlour!

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/488/>

Norfolk Heritage Park, S2 2PL, Free

Have a picnic, explore the ancient woods, play in the woodland adventure play areas, take a scooter/ride on/remote control car for the track, get an ice cream from the cafe, climb the big hills and spot things in the city centre. There is a variety of equipment suitable up to teenagers and new adventure playgrounds renovated in 2018. The 'centre in the park' cafe is more than just a cafe; there's indoor picnic area, trails and booklets to pick up, a nursery, meeting rooms and toilets. It has its own sculpture trail and fun orienteering courses of different levels of difficulty.

<https://norfolkheritagepark.wordpress.com/>

Cannon Hall Museum & Gardens, S75 4AT, Free, some events small charge  
Cannon Hall Museum & Gardens has 70 acres to explore, with beautiful parklands, landscaped gardens and a country house museum.

Cannon Hall Park and Gardens is an idyllic place for a relaxing walk, family outing or picnic. The Park is an ideal place to explore with acres of grassland that are perfect for games. Cannon Hall Museum is home to an astounding mix of paintings, metalwork, ceramics, modern glassware and furniture collections displayed in exhibition galleries throughout the Halls' historic rooms. <http://www.cannon-hall.com/your-visit->

## Nature/Geography

Creswell Crags, S80 3LH, £3 all day car park charge unless you go further



down the road and park in the (limited) free spaces outside Crags cottage and walk through. You can pay for extra exhibitions and tours. Free to walk around the gorge and you could take a picnic (there's also café that is reasonably priced and serves all the usual. (Disabled access to the gorge and main building, but not the caves)

Walk in the footsteps of the Ice Age hunter and enter a world of fire and flint. Discover a legacy etched in stone with cave art 10,000 years older than the pyramids. Explore life on the edge of the Ice Age world.

<https://www.creswell-crags.org.uk/>

## Creative Inspiration

Grimm & Co, S65 1DJ, Free for the downstairs areas.



*Grimm & Co's Apothecary to the Magical was established in 1148. It is a truly magical shop, little museum and library in Rotherham Town Centre. It is a hidden gem. [We loved reading stories in the library](#) and looking at all the wonderful soaps, broomsticks and goodies to buy.*

There are little things to do in the shop for free in addition to the library, such as a little wishing well at the back of the shop, museum cabinets with Princess' Pea & Cinderella's glass slipper, a piano and a letter writing corner. Grimm & Co is a charity and runs many creative workshops for children. You can pay extra to take part in workshops. <https://grimmandco.co.uk/>

## Science

Magna, Rotherham, S60 1VD, Entry fees involved. By bus: The new X1 Steel Link service drops visitors right outside Magna, up to every 10 mins.

The Science Adventure Centre is a hands-on experience, packed with interactive exhibits and fascinating displays. Explore the wonders of Science and Technology in four pavilions – Air, Earth, Fire & Water. Splash in water, operate real JCB's in Earth, marvel at a tornado made of fire and even explode a rock face! Magna is a coats-on experience; set in the old Templeborough steelworks, The Big Melt and Face of Steel offer an exciting journey into the world of steelmaking.  
<https://www.visitmagna.co.uk/science-adventure>

## Sport

Obviously, the main sports are out of season and expensive to go to when in season. It is a great experience to watch live professional sport. However, look out for some preseason friendlies that get advertised fairly last minute.

Dinnington School of Swimming has public swimming slots through the week. See their website.  
<https://schoolofswimmers.wixsite.com/schoolofswimmers/facilities>

IceSheffield is also a good experience. £21.40 for two adults & three children; £5.25 for children at weekends & holidays. Skate hire £1.75.

Doncaster Dome also offers ice-skating and swimming. £7 for a child to do both all day, and £25 for a family of four.

## Further Afield

Tia Greyhound Rescue, Free



Tia Rescue has a lovely café you can see the rescue chickens, horses, donkeys and also walk the greyhounds. In Finningley near Doncaster. <https://www.tia-rescue.org/>

National Railway Museum, York, free entry



Only a few minutes from York train station.  
<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/>  
The World's largest Railway Museum. Gives a real insight into the development of the railways. Home to iconic locomotives and an incredible collection of engineering firsts, the museum celebrates the past, present and future of innovation on the railways. Get up close to icons of the rails including Mallard, the world's fastest steam locomotive. Climb on board the Japanese bullet train, discover how high-speed rail travel began and journey back in time to experience the working life of a station. You can visit Queen Victoria's favourite railway saloon, explore over 200 years of history and find out how railways shaped our world.

Sherwood Forest- for walks/cycling/Robin Hood's Major Oak, NG21 9RN, £4 parking



Every August they have a Robin Hood Festival, 5-11<sup>th</sup> August 2019. There is a new visitor's centre and activity parks as well as the visit to the Major Oak. Every path will offer up a little magic...that's why many visitors go their own way. But there are trails guides, with something suitable for all ages, abilities and interests, from fungi to fauna. <https://www.visitsherwood.co.uk/things-to-do/>

Rufford Abbey Country Park, Ollerton, NG22 9DF, free entry, £4 parking  
New adventure playground, adventure golf, interative walks, boating lake, archery in the holidays (check days). Lake to walk around, big grass areas for picnics/ball games and ice cream parlour. Children's play area, maze and sensory garden to explore, but also the ruins of the abbey. Outdoor cinema in the holidays. You have to pay for some of the extras.  
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-leisure/country-parks/rufford-abbey>

National Coal Mining Museum, near Wakefield, WF4 4RH, optional £5 cost



Fascinating tour underground with a real miner, exploring mining through the ages. Lots of activities through the summer, and a new adventure playground. The National Coal Mining Museum for England keeps the stories of coal mining alive by creating enjoyable and inspiring ways to learn for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and by collecting and

preserving the industry's rich heritage. Cost? 'If you take our well-loved underground tour, you will get a traditional miners 'check' and be asked for £5 as a deposit. After your tour you can keep the check and donate the £5 to help us keep the mine running or you can ask for your £5 back.' But arrive before 12 noon as the tours get booked up.

<https://www.ncm.org.uk/your-visit/for-families-for-everyone>

The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield, WF1 5AW, free entry, parking £5 for up to 4 hours



Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017, Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art

and working process. Lots of summer activities in the holidays. Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays include Explore and Draw activities.

Worsbrough Mill Museum & Country Park, S70 5LJ, £3 parking for full day Admission is free to this fantastic country park and museum, featuring a playground, cafe and trails. Worsbrough Mill is a 17<sup>th</sup> Century working water mill set in stunning parkland. It is an amazing place to visit, watch wildlife and see history come to life. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely day out exploring the Country Park either on foot or by bicycle. The 60 acre reservoir is a haven for wildlife and regularly attracts birdwatchers and anglers. <http://www.worsbrough-mill.com/your-visit->

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield, WF4 4JX, Only pay for parking. £12 all day. £6.50 1-2 hours. Up to one hour £3.50



500 acres of beautiful landscape with contemporary sculpture throughout from famous sculptors such as Moore and Hepworth through to very modern work, children are free to explore and play. Indoor Galleries have family friendly activities to support your visit to the exhibition.

Elsecar Heritage Centre & Elsecar Park, S74 8EY, free and free parking



With its own train station, Elsecar is very convenient to get to and is ideally located for a day out from Sheffield. This lovely little 18<sup>th</sup> century conservation village has more than you'd expect. Elsecar Park, a green-flag award winning park is fully equipped with good play areas, cafe, mini golf and gentle walks. There is plenty of room to run around, play basketball, find painted rocks,

walk by the little steams or have fun in the scooter park.

Just over the road is Elsecar Heritage Centre, a unique historical attraction. Elsecar Heritage Centre is walled in with cobble stoned paths, so it is very safe to explore as there's no traffic. There are a number of fantastic shops, antiques, cafes and Elsecar Heritage Railway. Walks by the canal or on the Trans-Pennine trail at popular, there is a little free museum and workshops. <http://www.elsecar-heritage.com/>

### Extra special treats

Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Branton, Doncaster, DN4 6TB, Save money by booking on line. Adults £17-£19.50, Children £15-£16.50, free parking.



A walk-through wildlife adventure! Yorkshire Wildlife Park is home to some of the most amazing animals on the planet, polar bears to majestic lions, tigers, black rhino and the rescued Japanese brown bears. With nearly 400 animals and 70 different species of animal, Yorkshire Wildlife Park is a fantastic place to experience a truly breathtaking walk-through wildlife adventure. Most of the animals at the park are either endangered or threatened,

Yorkshire Wildlife Park work closely with charities to help the conservation of endangered species in the wild and captivity. Every animal has enough space to be able to run at its top speed. You can walk through some of the animal areas and get extra close: wallabies, lemurs, and squirrel monkeys.

Plenty of activity areas too for children of all ages, and as well as various cafes there is plenty of space for picnicking.

<https://www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com/about-us/>

Tropical Butterfly House, Wildlife & Falconry, North Anston, S25 4EQ, Adults £13.75, Children £12.50. <https://www.butterflyhouse.co.uk/>



As well as the butterflies, you can see lemurs, meerkats, parrots, red squirrels, otters, birds of prey, giant tortoises and dinosaurs! There are also picnic and play areas.

Through the day you can have special animal encounters.

Clumber Park, Worksop, S80 3AZ, £5.00 for adults, £2.50 for children, Family £12.50, one adult family £7.50



Clumber Park is a beautiful expanse of parkland, heath and woods covering more than 3,800 acres. There are several cafes but also lots of places to have a picnic.

Clumber was once the country estate of the Dukes of Newcastle. Although the house was demolished in 1938, there

are many glimpses of its grand past to explore. From the Gothic-style chapel, often referred to as a 'Cathedral in miniature', you can follow in the footsteps of Dukes through the peaceful pleasure ground to the Walled Kitchen Garden where you can experience sights, scents and a taste of the past.

A great place to walk your dog or your children. You can also hire bikes / tandems to cycle through the park. There is also a woodland play park.

Canon Hall Farm, S75 4AT, £8.95 adults & children, under 2s free, parking all day £3 (entry includes £1 pre-booking fee)



See sheep, goats, llamas, Shetland ponies, pigs, alpacas. Programme of activities throughout the school holidays including sheep and ferret racing, small animal petting, tractor and trailer rides and milking demonstrations. Fantastic outdoor adventure playground and an indoor play area. Farm shop, restaurants and cafes...but plenty of space for a picnic too.

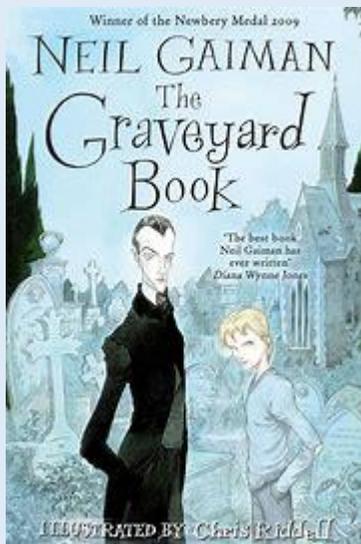
## Recommended Reads

Students who read do better in ALL their GCSEs not just in English. It expands their vocabulary and helps them learn lots of things without realising it.

Go and discover the library in the Dinnington Resource centre so you can keep reading over the summer for free. Or save money by buying a book each with your friends and share them over the summer. It is also good to read books that are nonfiction – factual books.



### 1) The Graveyard book by Neil Gaiman



After a breathless start with possibly the best opening line of any book, the book becomes a tale of growing up and understanding what it means to be human.

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under

attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family...

**2) The Wolf Wilder** by Katherine Rundell (Illustration by Gelrev Ongbico)  
An astounding book. Wonderful language, brilliant characters and a tale that weaves a fine line between fairy-tale and the hardships of pre-revolution Russia.

*Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans.*

*When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.*

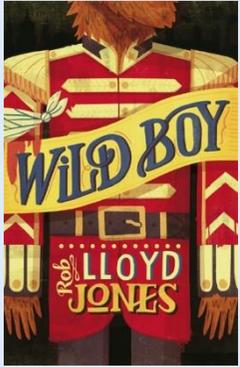
### 3) Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

If you have to read one post-apocalyptic adventure novel then make it this one. Breathless adventure, burgeoning romance, a relentless chase, treachery, betrayal and a beautifully realised world full of Great British quirk.

*It was a dark, blustery afternoon in spring, and the city of London was chasing a small mining town across the dried-out bed of the old North Sea.*

*The great traction city London has been skulking in the hills to avoid the bigger, faster, hungrier cities loose in the Great Hunting Ground. But now, the sinister plans of Lord Mayor Mangus Crome can finally unfold. Thaddeus Valentine, London's Head Historian and adored famous archaeologist, and his lovely daughter, Katherine, are down in The Gut when the young assassin with the black scarf strikes toward his heart, saved by the quick intervention of Tom, a lowly third-class apprentice. Racing after the fleeing girl, Tom suddenly glimpses her hideous face: scarred from forehead to jaw, nose a smashed stump, a single eye glaring back at him. "Look at what your Valentine did to me!" she screams. "Ask him! Ask him what he did to Hester Shaw!" And with that she jumps down the waste chute to her death. Minutes later Tom finds himself tumbling down the same chute and stranded in the Out-Country, a sea of mud scored by the huge caterpillar tracks of cities like the one now steaming off over the horizon.*

#### 4) **Wild Boy** by Rob Lloyd Jones



Just a rip-roaring, rollicking adventure. A superhero book without superhero's.

*Murder mystery meets carnival flair in a rollicking Victorian adventure centered on a boy with a unique appearance — and unique gifts. In the seedy underworld of Victorian London, a boy is born and abandoned. Snatched up by an unscrupulous and abusive showman, Wild Boy, covered in hair from head to toe, becomes a sideshow freak. Isolated from other children and wickedly abused by the cruel master who bought him, Wild Boy becomes an avid*

*observer, developing Sherlock Holmes–like deductive skills. Although he is tormented and insulted, kicked and spat at, his quick mind takes in everything he sees. When a murder occurs at the fair, Wild Boy is hastily accused. Can he use his powers of deduction to save himself? And will the talented and spunky young acrobat Clarissa be with him — or against him? Readers will be swept along by the cinematic pace, immersed in the vivid historical setting, and gripped by suspense as they wait to find out if a better fate could possibly await someone so very different.*

#### 5) **Front Desk** by Kelly Yang

A powerful tale that tackles injustices, racism and bullying. The story is centered around Mia, a young girl working with her parents' at a motel near Disneyland

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets.

*Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language?*

*It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?*

#### 6) **The Last of Spirits** by Chris Priestly

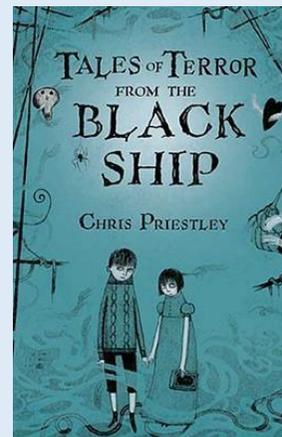


A story of redemption that runs alongside A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens that you will read for your GCSEs. It gives an even bleaker vision of Victorian Britain.

*Sam and Lizzie are freezing and hungry on the streets of Victorian London. When Sam asks a wealthy man for some coins, he is rudely turned away. Months of struggle suddenly find their focus, and Sam resolves to kill the man. Huddling in a graveyard for warmth, Sam and Lizzie are horrified to see the earth around one of the tombs begin to shift, shortly followed by the wraithlike figure of a ghostly man. He warns*

*Sam about the future which awaits such a bitter heart, and so begins Sam's journey led by terrifying spirits through the past, present and future, after which Sam must decide whether to take the man, Scrooge's, life or not.*

#### 7) **Tales of Terror** by Chris Priestly illustrated by David Roberts

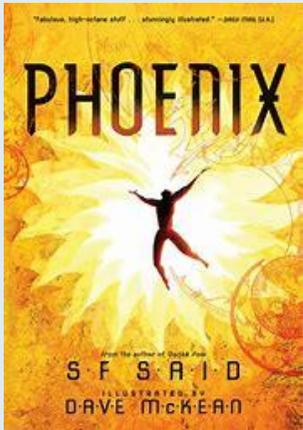


These are fantastically written short stories constructed around a wonderful central story.

*Uncle Montague lives alone in a big house and his regular visits from his nephew give him the opportunity to retell some of the most frightening stories he knows.*

*But as the stories unfold, another even more spine-tingling narrative emerges, one that is perhaps the most frightening of all. Uncle Montague's tales of terror, it transpires, are not so much works of imagination as dreadful, lurking memories. Memories of an earlier time in which Uncle Montague lived a very different life to his present solitary existence.*

**8) Phoenix** by S.F.Said illustrated by Dave McKean



Science-Fiction is a massively underrated genre. Phoenix is full on brilliantly pure sci-fi. Wonderfully told and crafted with unexpected twists that completely change how you view the story and the characters.

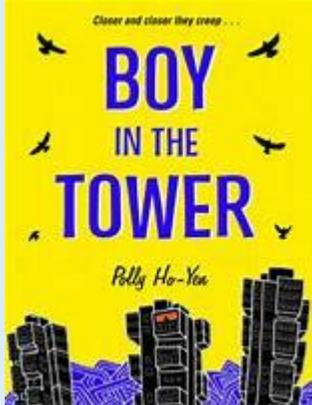
*THE SUPERNOVA IS COMING . . . ONE BOY ALONE CAN SAVE THE GALAXY!*

*Lucky thinks he's an ordinary Human boy. But one night, he dreams that the stars are singing – and wakes to find an uncontrollable power rising inside him. Now he's on the run, racing through space, searching for answers. In a galaxy at war, where Humans and Aliens are deadly enemies,*

*the only people who can help him are an Alien starship crew – and an Alien warrior girl, with neon needles in her hair.*

*Together, they must find a way to save the galaxy. For Lucky is not the only one in danger. His destiny and the fate of the universe are connected in the most explosive way.*

**9) The Boy In The Tower** by Polly Ho-Yen



Boy in the tower is a wonderfully real dystopian sci-fi. Ade is a fantastic narrator/protagonist and you completely root for him.

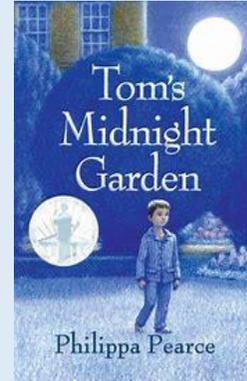
*When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way.*

*Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. His mum doesn't really like looking outside – but it's going outside that she hates. She's happier sleeping all day inside their tower, where it's*

*safe.*

*But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear. Now their tower isn't safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out.*

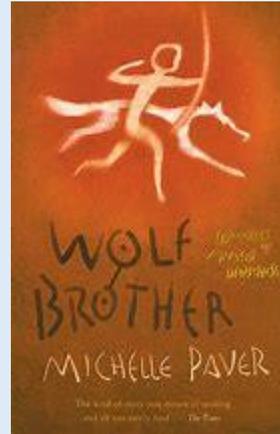
**10) Tom's Midnight Garden** by Philippa Pearce



Possibly one of the finest children's books ever written. Complex and beautiful.

*Lying awake at night, Tom hears the old grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! When Tom gets up to investigate, he discovers a magical garden. A garden that everyone told him doesn't exist. A garden that only he can enter . . . A Carnegie-Medal-winning modern classic that's magically timeless.*

**11) Wolf Brother** by Michelle Paver (the first of six in the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness, all worth reading)

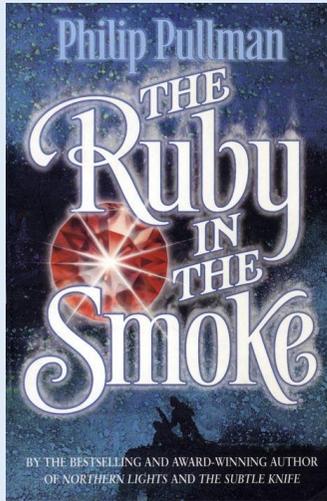


Wolf Brother combines elements of fantasy, prehistoric fiction and facts, to make a brilliant book.

*Thousands of years ago the land is one dark forest. Its people are hunter-gatherers. They know every tree and herb and they know how to survive in a time of enchantment and powerful magic. Until an ambitious and malevolent force conjures a demon: a demon so evil that it can be contained only in the body of a ferocious bear that will slay everything it sees, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it - 12 year old Torak, who has seen his*

*father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, Torak's father tells his son of the burden that is his. He must lead the bear to the mountain of the World Spirit and beg that spirit's help to overcome it. Torak is an unwilling hero. He is scared and trusts no one. His only companion is a wolf cub only three moons old, whom he seems to understand better than any human. There is a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.*

**12) Ruby in the Smoke** by Philip Pullman (first of the four Sally Lockhart series)

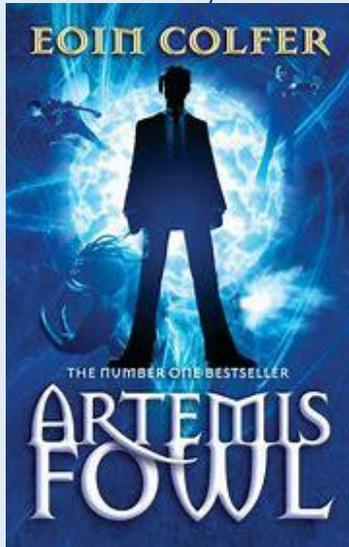


Set in Victorian England and not hiding the dark underbelly of the times, these are adventure mystery stories.

Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives a strange anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man die of fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel.

All Pullman's books are fantastic and range from some quick easy readers to the complex Northern Lights trilogy.

**13) Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer (first of a series of seven with Artemis as the main character)



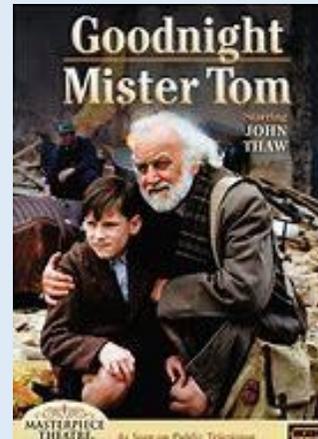
A comedy fantasy novel

It is the first book in the Artemis Fowl series. Described by its author as "Die Hard with fairies", it follows the adventures of genius Artemis Fowl, a twelve-year-old criminal mastermind, as he kidnaps a fairy for a large ransom of gold.

Throughout the book, the third-person narration switches repeatedly from following the human characters to various fairy characters. At the bottom of each page of the book, a string of symbols appear. These symbols are supposedly Gnommish, but are really part of a substitution cipher which when decoded reveals a message. The message runs throughout the book's pages.

**14) Goodnight Mr Tom** by Michelle Magorian

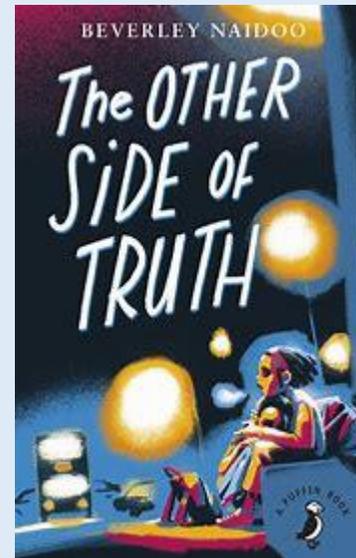
A heart-warming story set at the start of World War 2.



Set during the dangerous build up to the Second World War, *Goodnight Mister Tom* follows young William Beech, who is evacuated to the idyllic English countryside and forges a remarkable and heart warming friendship with the elderly recluse, Tom Oakley, where he experiences a new life. All is perfect until William is suddenly summoned by his mother back to London.

**15) The Other Side of Truth** by Beverley Naidoo

A moving novel that reaches out to the reader



This is the story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London, with their father promising to follow. Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Seen through the eyes of Sade, the novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee. WINNER OF THE -CARNEGIE MEDAL 2000 and the NESTLE SMARTIES SILVER AWARD 2000

### Other suggestions in case you have missed them so far

**Harry Potter** by J.K Rowling (yes, the whole series)

**A Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket (Another series...funny)

Anything by Michael Morpurgo

Any of the Horrible Histories

Any of the David Walliams books

**Skellig** by David Almond & his other books

**The Machine Gunners** by Robert Westall

**Stig of the Dump** by Clive King

### Children's Classics

**Peter Pan** by J.M Barrie

Any of the Roald Dahl children's books

**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** by L Frank Baum

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll

**Swallows and Amazons** by Arthur Ransome

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

**The Railway Children** By E Nesbitt

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams

**The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame

**Winnie the Pooh** by A.A. Milne

## Happy Holidays from Everyone at DHS

If you have a great idea for next year's edition that would help other parents & carers, please email [info@dinningtonhigh.co.uk](mailto:info@dinningtonhigh.co.uk) and put Parents' Handbook in the subject line.



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