

May 2020

Literacy Transition Project

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you slightly earlier than usual and under slightly different circumstances; I hope you are all keeping safe during this unusual time for us all.

In September it will be our pleasure to welcome your child to Holy Cross Catholic High School. We know that this is a time of excitement and apprehension for many children, therefore we have made the decision to continue with our yearly Literacy Transition Project based upon the novel *Sky Hawk* by Gill Lewis.

In previous years, we have provided every child in Year 6 with a pack including a copy of the novel, a short work booklet that they complete in school as part of their final term of English work in Year 6, a postcard and a competition based on the book. This is an initiative that has been very positively received over the last couple of years and pupils always express how much they have enjoyed reading the novel. The Literacy Transition Project culminates with a transition unit of work based on the novel during your child's English lessons in September, therefore reading the novel now will be invaluable in aiding their progress as they begin Year 7. Additionally, we also run a cross-curricular day based on themes from the novel. Last year we were lucky enough to host Gill Lewis and we are currently looking into the possibility of this again for 2020. Pupils always speak very positively of the day and come away with a different perspective on reading.

As a consequence of schools currently being closed we obviously cannot distribute the packs to you as we normally would, however we would still urge your child to participate in this initiative. Therefore, we have enclosed a copy of the novel for your child to read. Please note that the novel must be returned to school in September through your child's English teacher so that we can ensure pupils in the future can also benefit from this scheme. We would encourage you to include the novel as part of their study at home during this period. In addition to this, we have also uploaded complementary resources, including a competition, to our school website in the New Intake section. Please have a browse of these resources and share them with your child; I can assure you that they will be excellent preparation for their transition to English study at secondary school.

Finally, in previous years we have asked pupils to return a postcard to school reviewing the book and sharing their opinions. This year we would love for your child to let us know what they think of the book by emailing us at skyhawk@holycross.lancs.sch.uk. We will be sharing some of the reviews we receive on our Twitter feed.

We invite your child to enjoy the book and have fun completing the various activities that we have provided and we ask that you support us in our aim to encourage your son or daughter's reading habits.

Thank you for support and we look forward to meeting your son or daughter shortly.

Yours faithfully

Miss S M Marsh
Head of English