

Lockdown Case Study:

Joanne Hunter, Learning Zone Co-ordinator, Greenbank High School, Southport.

Although lockdown has meant the Learning Zone (Library) at Greenbank High School was closed, Joanne has used the opportunity to learn a whole range of new digital skills. One of the first things she discovered was Padlet and with the huge range of free resources becoming available this was the ideal platform to use. She published it on the school VLE, promoted it through the English and SEN departments and posted it on the school's social media. The Padlet, which she keeps updated, links to many resources including how to access the local public library Borrowbox app, myON and other free ebooks and audiobooks, free newspapers, encyclopedia access, comics, author reads, activities and competitions, books on television, book recommendations and research skills. Plenty to keep students engaged with reading. She also taught herself how to produce a Wakelet and created one on VE Day and one on Star Wars Day which were promoted again on the library resources pages and by SLT during staff briefing.

Her favourite new discovery has been Interactive Bitmoji Classrooms. After a couple of YouTube sessions Joanne created a classroom on Mental Health and Wellbeing linking to local support services, online resources, wellbeing activities and exercises, and free ebooks written specifically to help pupils during the pandemic. She has also created new reading list leaflets for year 7 and 8 featuring many new books and classics that are stocked in the school library and that can be borrowed from the local public library via an app. These booklists have also been loaded onto the library resources page and shared with the English department. In addition, Joanne produced a list of recommended reads to be included in the transition booklet for the new Year 7 intake.

On a practical note:

- Joanne has been providing a "click and collect" service for pupils in school who have requested books from the library, following Health & Safety guidelines.
- The school shadows a local book award as well as the Carnegie Book Award so she has been keeping in touch with book club members by email to discuss their latest read, and to help and encourage them to review their books.
- Joanne continues to administrate the Accelerated Reader scheme and has been providing information for teachers on pupil engagement with quizzes and assistance for pupils who need support accessing the programme from home.
- She has continued to provide AR reports charting engagement, progress and screening to the Head of English for discussion at department meetings in order for them to identify which pupils require extra support and will need extra intervention when they return to school.
- Joanne has taken advantage of free digital library subscriptions and promoted them to English staff to use during reading lessons and to pupils on the library resources pages, Padlet and social media.
- She has created specific reading lists for year groups for English staff following parental requests and has pointed the humanities department to topical booklists.

- Joanne continues to keep in touch with staff sharing the library's latest reads and book recommendations to encourage reading for pleasure for all.
- She is working with one of the English teachers to promote poetry this year has produced another Interactive Bitmoji classroom to be included in his lesson plans.
- Writing competitions have been promoted within the English and Humanities departments, and these have been set as optional tasks for the pupils.
- As a school that has been open right through lockdown Joanne has kept the Head and the Premises Manager up-to-date with the professional guidance for the use and reopening of libraries, and they have used this and consulted with her throughout, and in relation to, opening up the library in September.

She has also had lots of thanks and praise from her Line Manager and Head as well as emails from staff thanking her for resources and information. Parents have also been very complimentary and have found the Padlet especially useful, not just for their child at the school but also for their siblings.

Joanne has been in school every week since lockdown supervising vulnerable and keyworker children so has had lots of opportunities to promote her new resources. These have been met with great enthusiasm and many pupils have commented that they have been really useful. She has received some lovely emails from her book club pupils especially, thanking her for helping them continue to shadow the Awards and making sure she is aware of the latest books from their favourite authors!

She has worked closely with the SEN department pointing to useful, differentiated resources to help with mental health and well-being, as well as encouraging reading for pleasure, and these have been very well received. Joanne was recently told that she had been mentioned in an English Lead application as someone who shares their passion for reading and someone that they are looking forward to collaborating with.