



LANSDOWN ROAD
CHELTENHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GL51 6QS
TEL 01242 512217

School Trip

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s) of children in Year 8

I am writing to you with details of the **Year 8 trip to The Cheltenham Literature Festival on Friday 12th October**, the event taking place from 11.45 to 12.45 in Montpellier Gardens

Before giving you those details may I say how keen I am to see all DCPS pupils discovering the pleasure of private reading – and then developing/maturing as keen young readers. I often give pupils the following three gentle (but firm!) reminders: **“No.1 - remember our ‘*Dean Close minimum expectations*’ – at least 10 minutes reading at bedtime, most nights of the week; No. 2 - make sure you put your screens outside your bedroom door; No.3 – all parents love seeing their children reading!”** I am sure that you will do what you can to encourage your child to read at home – thank you.

Year Eight pupils are really going to enjoy hearing the award-winning writer, **Elizabeth Laird**, talking about her work – and I hoped they are challenged by what she says, as well. Laird’s novels often focus on children from different cultures, encouraging the reader to think in greater depth about the world around them – and in particular the plight of the disadvantaged. You might like to look her up on line, with your child, in advance of the trip.

Here is a brief summary from this year’s festival brochure: ***“How are young Syrians coping with war and the shattering disruption of their lives? In Welcome to Nowhere, Elizabeth Laird, award-winning author, traveller and story-collector, introduces 12 year old Omar and his siblings whose powerful story will help young readers empathise with those forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other countries. elizabethlaird.co.uk.”***

A few other useful points:

- Pupils will be leaving and returning during normal school hours, by coach, so no special pick-up arrangements will be required.
- Regarding uniform, the event will be inside a festival marquee - pupils will wear normal smart school clothes.



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- We will not have time to visit the festival bookstore; children must not bring money, cameras or any other electrical items.
- If your child suffers from asthma, please ensure that they bring an inhaler with them for the trip. Staff will, of course, check all medical requirements.

Kind regards,

Mr R Shelley

Head of English

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