

Whitley Bay High School Library is a large and well-resourced learning space that is used heavily and diversely throughout the school day. The Library supports a variety of teaching and learning opportunities across all year groups, as well as leading on a range of literacy and reading interventions and initiatives. The largest of these is the annual Literature Festival which aims to place young people in the company of a range of writers, performers and practitioners, as well as some of the nation's most prominent literary figures. Past visitors have included Poets Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage, as well as bestselling crime writer Ann Cleeves, and YA authors Meg Rosoff, Alex Wheatle, and Dean Atta. Reading and its transformative power on the lives of young people is at the centre of everything we do, and the Library is at the forefront of delivering the school's culture of reading and literacy. This also extends to collaborative work with our feeder middle schools and neighbouring first schools.

Throughout the day, the Library provides a welcoming and purposeful environment for all year groups, particularly supporting the independent study of sixth formers, who use the Library extensively. Library staff also plan and deliver reading lessons in conjunction with the English department, and are responsible for delivering literacy interventions for students in Year 9. As well as these core duties, and those normally expected of a Library space, we also offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities including a Creative Writing Club, the hugely popular Comic & Manga Club, the North East Teenage Book Award group, the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme, the Staff / 6th Form Reading Group, and many others. The Library is an inclusive, positive and supportive places for many students, and the Library staff are a regular point of contact for the wider student body.

The role of Senior Library Assistant is varied and busy. The postholder would be expected to join an established team and be an active team player whilst also being comfortable working alone and self-motivating. Creativity and new ideas are encouraged and although Library or education experience would be beneficial, a willingness to learn, an open and positive outlook, a good sense of humour, and an interest in developing teaching skills would be considered as important. The role offers a wide range of opportunities for a candidate who is looking to develop a varied skills set and who might be interested in pursuing a further career in libraries or education. Previous postholders have gone on to library management roles, higher education positions, and teaching.

It is essential that candidates for this post understand the power of reading and are keen to share this with others, inspiring young people to engage in narratives and the written word. Candidates should also relish the opportunity to work closely with young people and be open to the range of experiences that might bring. WBHS Library welcomes a huge variety of students into its space and candidates should not assume that the Library is the preserve of only one kind of student. Flexibility, kindness, and understanding are therefore crucial to this role. The right candidate will be supported with an induction programme and regular training and will find the post exciting and rewarding.