

15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

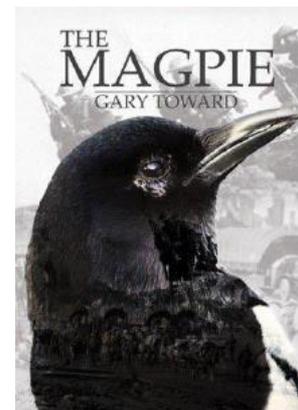
We are delighted to announce that Gary Toward, a local writer, will be visiting the school on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to discuss his first published book, *The Magpie*, with our Year 7s. Gary visited us in March and after that visit's success we have invited him back again.

We are extremely excited to be able to offer this fantastic opportunity to our students, and hope they will gain a much greater understanding of the way a book is created and developed, and eventually published. Hopefully, they will also learn a little more about the history of World War 1, which will certainly help them with their English and History lessons in the future. It is also poignant since the day is just four days from the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of armistice.

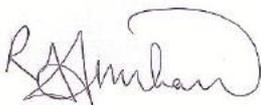
Before turning his hand to writing Gary taught for over 33 years in six schools, leading three as Head Teacher. As well as writing both fiction and non-fiction books, Gary continues to work in the educational sector as a speaker, trainer and author. *The Magpie* is his first foray into the world of fiction, and he is currently working on a sequel.

In *The Magpie* Gary relates the story of Detective Constable Frank Bolam, a working class policeman with a powerful sense of duty. A series of murders rocks his sleepy town in the North East, and Frank believes the killer has fled to Belgium to hide in the trenches. The story follows Frank's quest across the Channel in order to bring the killer to justice, and takes the reader on a fascinating and historically accurate journey through the horrors of World War 1 trench warfare.

If you wish to buy a copy of his book before the event Gary would be more than happy to sign it on the day. Copies can be ordered from bookshops or online at; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [austintmacauley.com](http://austintmacauley.com), [waterstones.com](http://waterstones.com), [brownsbfs.co.uk](http://brownsbfs.co.uk) or other online booksellers. Prices differ regularly, so shop around for the best one. Gary will also be bringing copies to buy directly from him too.



Yours sincerely,



Mr R Armishaw  
Associate Principal