



THE BOOKSHELF

AUTUMN 2025

“October, crisp, misty, golden October,
when the light is sweet and heavy.”

Angela Carter

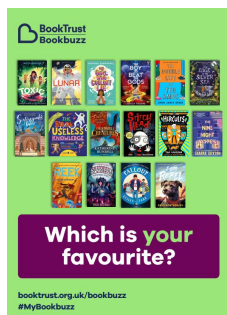
**THE
BOOKFAIR
IS
COMING!**



**1st - 5th DECEMBER
in the school library**

**8am - 8.30am
3.20pm - 4.00pm**

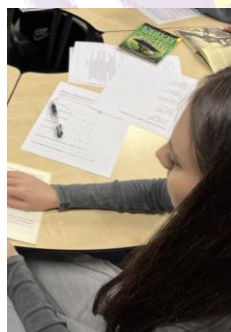
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY THIS TERM?



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**“The aim of the library is to create the environment and facilities
where students and staff may read, study and seek information.”**

BOOKBUZZ

This term our Yr7 students have had the opportunity to choose a free book to take home as part of the Bookbuzz reading programme from BookTrust. There are 16 amazing books to choose from which include non-fiction, comic books and fiction titles.

To find out more about this wonderful programme visit:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/>



All about the books – watch the author video here to find out more...



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

AND EARN
**FREE
BOOKS**
FOR OUR
SCHOOL*

Come to the **BOOK FAIR**

Read the books everyone's talking about!



*Free books are subject to terms and conditions.

BOOKFAIR

Our annual bookfair is taking place during the first week of December
just in time for Christmas!

WHAT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE?

As well as lots of new titles there are some well-loved favourites to choose from. Prices will start from £2.99 and all sales will help raise funds for our school library.

Find out more here: bit.ly/3YT8n3N

HOW DO WE PAY?

Students can either pay with cash or card. To pay via card they will need to use the QR CODE shown below.

SCHOLASTIC
Book Fairs



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online
or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay

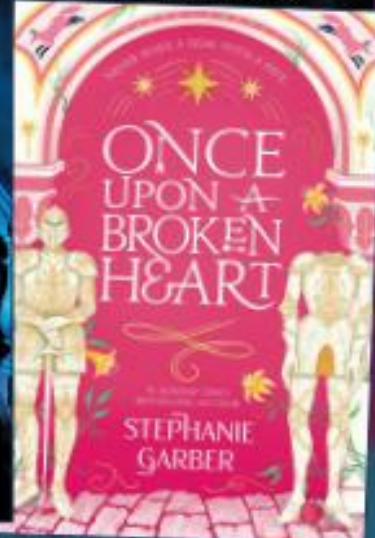
SCHOLASTIC

TRAVELLING BOOKS

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THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM ONLY £2.99

1st – 5th December 2025

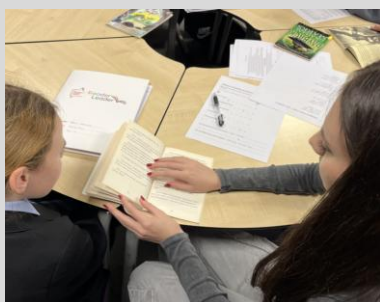
AUTHOR VISIT



We were thrilled to welcome YA author Tia Fisher to Bishop Challoner this term for an assembly and writing workshop for our Yr9 & Yr10 students. Students have been reading her first novel *Crossing The Line* in their English lessons. It was fantastic to be able to meet Tia and ask questions about her writing process and the idea behind *Crossing The Line* and then have the opportunity to put their own ideas down on paper. A real treat!

tiafisher.com





READER LEADERS!

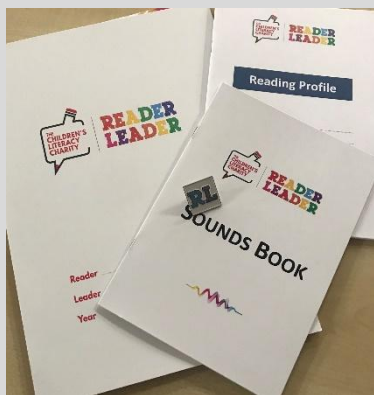


As part of their involvement in the Paired Reading programme 22 of our Yr12 students took part in [Reader Leader training](#) in the last week of term.

This training is provided by The Children's Literacy Charity and funded by our school. "The Leaders learn how to be reading mentors and gain knowledge in phonics, word knowledge and the reading process as well as understanding barriers to learning and how to be an effective mentor. The training is fully supported with information packs and resources."

For more information about the programme and the charity visit:

<https://thechildrensliteracycharity.org.uk/>

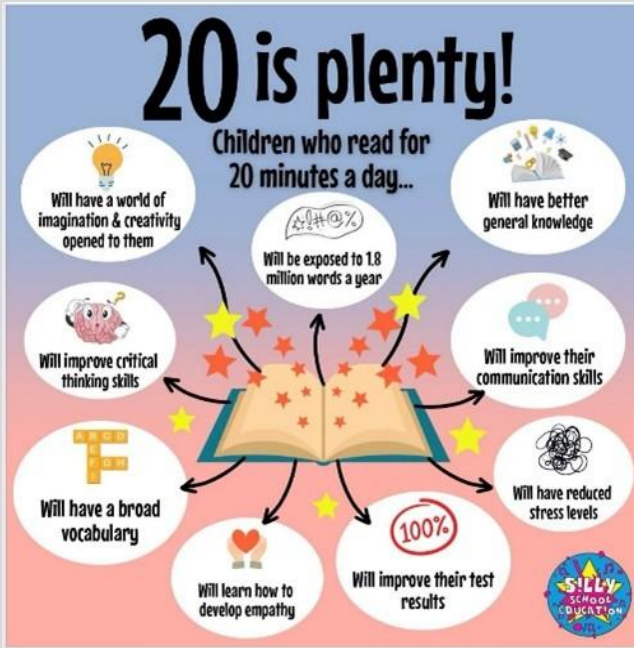


Y9 Reading Circle

Following on from the success of our Reader Leader programme supporting our Year 8 students we now have a small supported reading circle running every Thursday form time for a select group of Year 9 students. Supported by Ms Hampson SENDCo and Mrs Newton Library Manager and 2 Yr12 students the aim of these sessions is to help with practicing reading and comprehension skills in readiness for their GCSE's.



WHAT SHOULD I READ?



READING LISTS

Making sure you choose the right book for your age and ability is a skill. As you read more you begin learn what is suitable and what you enjoy. There are some fantastic online resources to help you choose your next read. Check out the links below for more details.

REMEMBER – you can also speak to Mrs Newton in the library who can help you choose a suitable book.

SCHOOL READING LIST

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/booklists/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/>

goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/read-alikes>



Change your story

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

WHAT ARE WE READING?

“Sharing stories and books is an essential part of a child’s healthy and successful development, and the best thing is that it’s never too early to start sharing book.”

“As children grow, the opportunity to share stories naturally extends into the classroom and school library space.”

Literacy Trust Blog Jan 2025

Here at **Bishop Challoner** we encourage all our staff to share their most recent reads. They can do this via posters displayed on their classroom or office door or through their email signature.

For more information and suitable resources on what and how to read with your child please visit:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>



WEBSITE UPDATE!



Don't forget to check out the library page on the school website.

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/library>

As well as our main library page where you can find out about opening times, how many books you can loan, library facilities etc we have also included links to the following:

Welcome Booklet – Where can I find graphic novels?
How do I use the library? What activities take place in the library?
You can find all this out in the welcome booklet.

Accessit – our library catalogue.

Local News and Events – check out the latest literary news and events right here in Brum.

For the love of books! – lots of great links to help you find your next book choice, learn a new skill and much more...

The Bookshelf – current and past issues of our library newsletter "The Bookshelf"

Follow Us -



@BC_OL



[bishopchallonerlc](https://www.instagram.com/bishopchallonerlc)

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DISPLAYS!



Our library displays are all about encouraging reading, highlighting new collections, promoting events and making sure that students are kept up to date with all things book related.

Themes so far this term have included: Banned Books Week, Black History Month and a showcase of our brand-new YA fiction.



ALL ON THE BOARD

Our **@allontheboard** feature is always popular with staff and students ... Every day we feature a new quote/message/event for our students to discover. You can keep up with our daily **@allontheboard** messages as well as all the other events going on in the library via our library Twitter

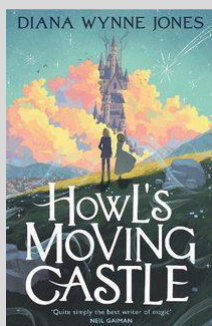
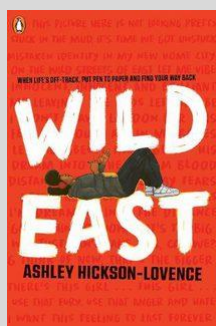
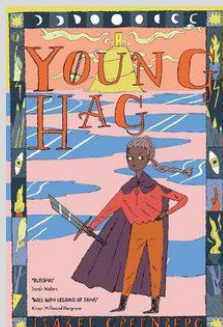
@BC_OLC

READING TEACHERS – READING PUPILS IS BACK!

CHELTENHAM
Festivals

Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils (RTRP) is Cheltenham Festivals' flagship outreach project designed to inspire teachers and pupils to read for pleasure because children who read for pleasure experience high levels of well-being, engage in learning and are successful in life.

We can't wait to get stuck into this year's titles and share our thoughts with students.



You can find out more about this fantastic programme and relevant resources here:

<https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.org/our-projects/reading-teachers-reading-pupils>

Turn on the Subtitles

**We're TOTS and we
exist to improve
children's literacy.**

We do this by telling parents, educators and legislators about the power of quality subtitles to improve literacy.

We also help broadcasters to add Literacy Grade Captions to their shows via our new service Caterpillar Captions

Proudly supported by...

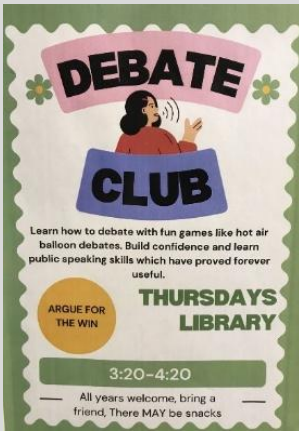


**Turning on quality subtitles means your child will read a
staggering number of words.**

Put them on and your child will read the equivalent number of words that are in all the Harry Potter books, all of the Lord of the Rings, all of the Chronicles of Narnia and everything Roald Dahl wrote, combined!

Research has shown that it can double the chance of your child leaving school as a proficient reader. You can turn them on for the whole family or most streaming services will now allow you to do it just for children's profiles.

DEBATE CLUB!



Debate Club runs every Tuesday in the library. The club is open to everyone and has proved extremely popular. Debate helps students learn new skills that are not often taught in the classroom – public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, confidence, and so much more.



FRIDAY FILM CLUB

Our Friday film club continues to be a popular lunchtime activity for our KS3 students.

<https://www.intofilm.org/>



SOCIAL READING GROUP

Our brand-new **Social Reading Group** started this term and runs every Thursday 3.20pm – 4.00pm in the school library. It is open to ALL yeargroups.

The focus is on reading for pleasure and there will be NO expectation or pressure on the children and young people who attend to read, instead aiming to foster conversations and book talk in a relaxed and pressure-free setting.

We have some wonderful fiction and non-fiction books suitable for all ages and abilities and will be encouraging students to just browse and enjoy looking through books.



A photograph of soccer players in action on a green field. In the foreground, a player in a purple jersey and bright yellow-green socks is running. To their right, a player in a blue jersey and blue socks is also running. A soccer ball is visible on the ground near the blue player. The background is slightly blurred, showing other players and the field.

**If you live for it.
Read it.**

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National Year of Reading 2026

WHAT'S ON IN THE "HEATH"



Our permanent library foyer display celebrates all things happening in "The Heath" and beyond.

Did you know that Kings Heath has two wonderful independent bookshops? Check out the information below on opening times and location.

We now also stock the Birmingham Issue of ["What's On?"](#)



LOCAL HEROES!

How Brave is the Wren

is located on York Road and is a children's bookshop. They run weekly free story-time sessions on Thursday morning at 11am and Friday morning at 10.15am.

All welcome.

Open Weds – Sat
10.00am – 5.00pm



The Heath Bookshop

is located in Kings Court (opp Asda) and is an independent bookshop. They regularly run events including author talks, books clubs and music events.

"Independent Bookshop of the Year 2025."

Open Weds – Sun
10.00am – 4.00pm.



BENEFITS



READING



Why is reading so important?

Reading is the gateway to learning. It is the key to pupils' future academic achievement and well-being.

Here at Bishop Challoner we encourage ALL our students to develop a love of reading for pleasure. As well as access to a well-stocked library where students can borrow a variety of books including graphic novels, quick reads and non-fiction titles we also have timetabled lessons throughout the school week. These enable students to access books relevant to their studies.

What should my child read?



"ALL THE READING
she had done
had given her
A VIEW OF LIFE
they had
never seen."

-Roald Dahl, Matilda

We would encourage students to read titles that stimulate and strengthen their language and literacy skills.

As long as they are reading every day for at least 20 minutes and trying out new texts and genres then we know that this benefits them in their reading journey.

For suggestions on suitable titles for your child visit:



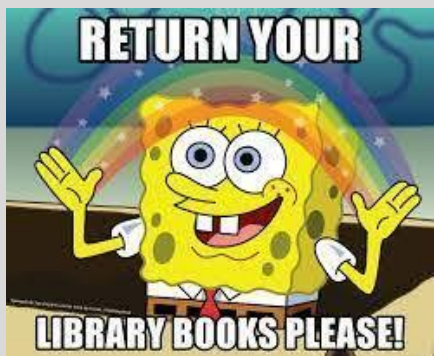


Book Suggestions

Do you have a favourite author, type of book, hobby or subject at school and would like to see more of these books in your school library?

Why don't you help Mrs Newton choose some new books by using the PURPLE BOOK REQUEST FOLDER, which is available at the issue desk?

We buy books throughout the year, and always check your suggestions before placing our orders.



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

Please remember to check at home for any overdue library books.

We don't charge fines but won't allow students to loan any more books until they have returned any books still outstanding on their account.

BOARD GAMES WANTED!

Do you have any board games/chess sets you would consider donating to our school library?

One of our most popular resources at break and lunchtime are our selection of chess sets and board games.

Board games benefit students by improving cognitive skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and memory. They also build crucial social skills such as turn-taking, cooperation, communication, and handling both winning and losing gracefully. Additionally, board games offer a fun, screen-free way to enhance concentration, patience, and can reinforce academic concepts in areas like math, spelling, and strategy.



SCREEN FREE DAYS

Teenagers spend a lot of time on screens, and too much screen time can have negative effects on their health. To help our students minimise their time on laptops we have introduced 2 screen free break and lunchtimes in the library. Every Tuesday and Thursday we encourage everyone to pick up a book, play a board game or just chat with friends.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/social-media-and-mental-health/>

GOOD REASONS to put down your PHONE





WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY?

We love a new book and especially when they arrive just in time for the darker nights. There's no better way to spend a winter evening than curled up with a book.

We try to cater for everyone's reading interests and we aim to provide a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles of all abilities. If we don't have what you want in stock please do let us know and we'll order it in.

To find out what's new in the library you can search our library catalogue here:

<https://uk.accessit.online/bsh09/#!/dashboard>

STAY IN TOUCH

Want to know what's happening in your school library? Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all the library news.



bishopchallonerolc



@BC_OLC

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES



Mon - Thurs - 8.00am - 4.00

Friday - 8.00am – 2.30pm