



# THE BOOKSHELF

SPRING 2025

**“She turned to the sunlight and shook her  
yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbour:  
“Winter is dead.”**

*A A Milne*

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

WE'VE GONE ALL **GREEN** ... Our plant collection is growing (literally) and our students are loving them.

Did you know?

- Plants reduce stress and anxiety
- They can improve your mood
- Plants can lower blood pressure
- And they look great as part of our book displays!



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



# WE'VE GENREFIED!!

## Why genrefy?

Although our students are all keen readers we have noticed that they sometimes struggle to choose a book. Many of them will go back to their favourite authors again and again rather than trying something new. To help them with their reading choices we have rearranged our fiction collection into genres. This has enabled us to showcase some of our less borrowed titles and increase borrowing figures.



We are always looking for ways to encourage our students to read and displaying our books via genre is just one of the ways we hope to increase loans and get our students reading more often.

Our new layout is all about getting students excited to use the library and explore what we have on the shelves.



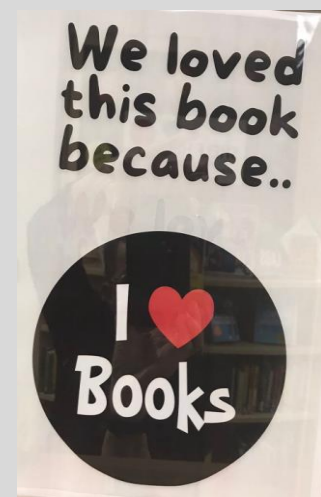
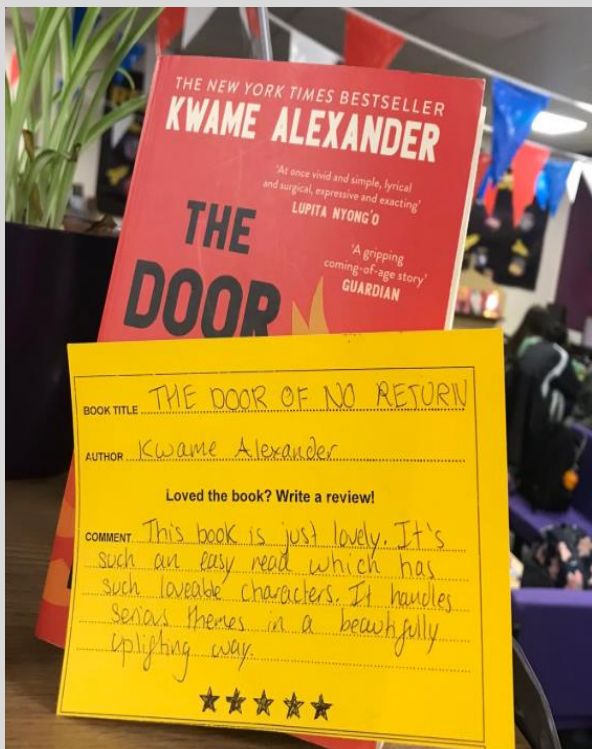
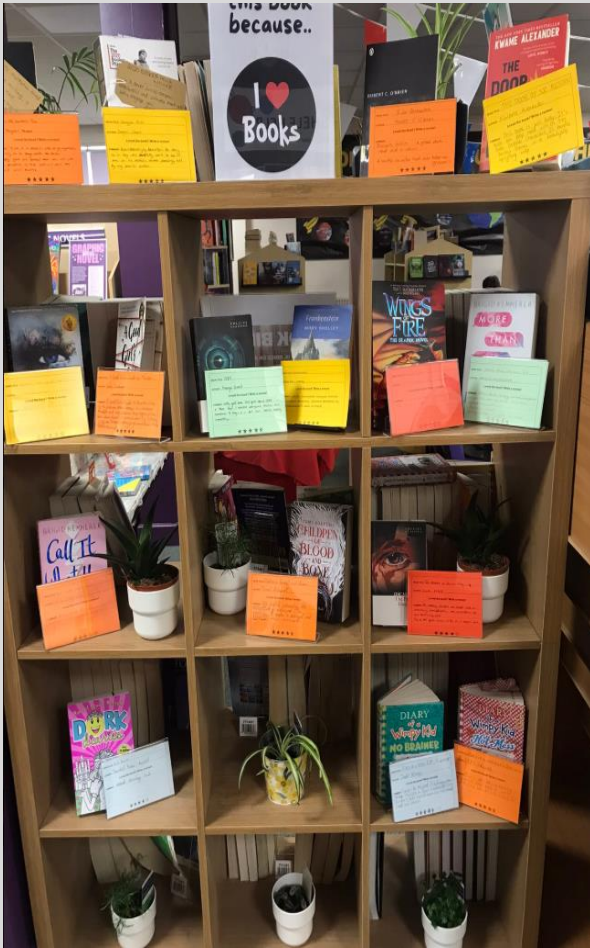
**WARNING!**  
**Books can**  
**seriously**  
**change** ✨  
**your life!** ✨



## BOOK REVIEWS

Everyone loves a recommendation ... our students have been sharing their views this term on their recent reads.

Writing reviews is also a good way for students to improve their writing skills. Being able to get your point of view across in a sentence or two is a real challenge but one that can help with reading and comprehension.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DISPLAYS!

We love our library displays. Whether it be promoting new books, a particular collection or just celebrating an awareness day or special occasion we make sure they are as bright and eye-catching as possible.

Our recent displays have highlighted ...  
verse novels, self-help collection, non-fiction,  
Valentines Day, Chinese New Year



#LOVEYOURLIBRARY  
@allontheboard  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.  
Welcome Back!!  
This term is only 7 weeks long.  
Make it count..... work hard,  
Stay focused, exercise, hydrate  
and before you know it we'll be  
in the Summer holidays ♡

## ALL ON THE BOARD

Our [@allontheboard](#) feature is proving very 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](#)

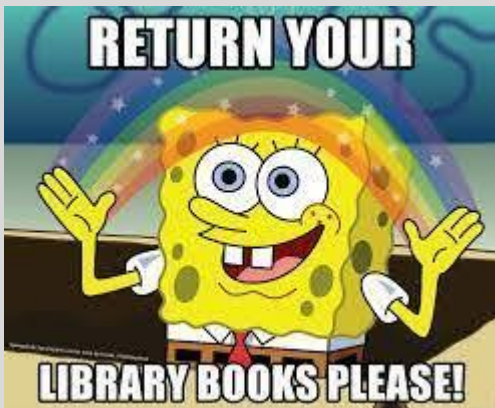
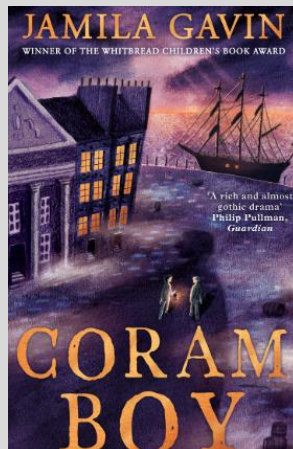
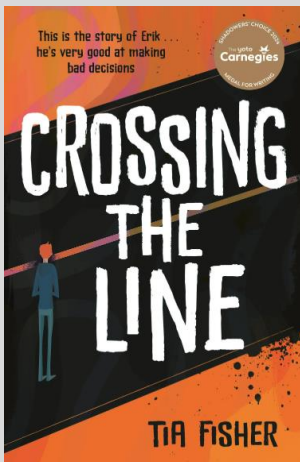
READING TEACHERS – READING PUPILS IS BACK!



We are loving the new titles in this year's RTRP programme. The range of books have been incredible....from verse novels to classics, there has been something to suit all reading abilities and tastes.

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

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



**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.

# READER LEADERS!



Paired reading is back and our Yr12 Reader Leaders have been incredible. Yr8 and Yr9 students who are taking part have given amazing feedback on their mentors and are loving their one-to-one reading sessions.

You can find out more about this programme here:

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



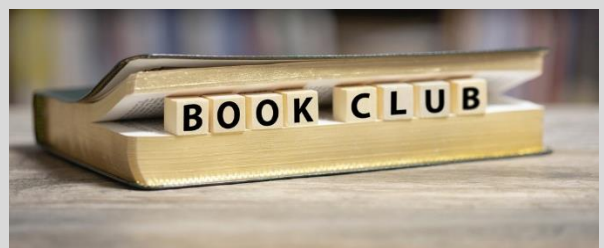
## THE BENEFITS OF A BOOK CLUB.

1. It promotes a love of reading.
2. It exposes children to books they might not otherwise read.
3. It's a fulfilling activity for every age group.
4. It encourages deeper exploration of books.
5. It provides children with a safe space for sharing their true thoughts. .
6. It's a meaningful way to add diverse voices to our children's thought life.
7. It helps children form lasting friendships and see reading as a social activity.

## KS3 BOOKCLUB



KS3 book club meets every Weds W1 in the library study room. Students read a variety of titles – fiction and non-fiction and then discuss.





# Turn on

# the Subtitles



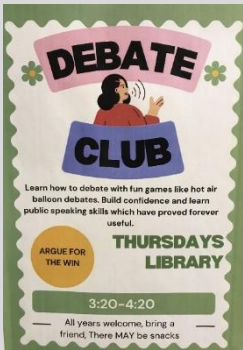
**Hello! What takes ten seconds, costs nothing  
but could **change your child's life forever?****

**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 Thursday 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, team-work, problem solving, confidence, and so much more.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Our wonderful Yr12 debaters took part in the KS5 Catholic School Debating Competition in March. The topic was a challenging one on euthanasia and they handled the debate with maturity and sensitivity. They did extremely well and came away with the winner's trophy.








## 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





**"The joy of reading  
underpins the joy  
of learning. Every  
child should have  
the opportunity to  
read to learn, and  
learn to read for  
fun."**



**Great  
School  
Libraries**

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# 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?"](#)



There is so much to do in Birmingham and beyond with many free child friendly events taking place to keep you and the family entertained over the winter months.

Check out the [Visit Birmingham](#) website for up- to-date information.

[Free Things to Do in Birmingham.](#)

## [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.



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:



## EBOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS & ONLINE MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS

This term we have continued to promote the benefits of e-books and other online reading resources to our students. All our students have been given information about an app called **Libby**.



### LIBBY APP - Birmingham Public Libraries

To access their e catalogue (**Overdrive**) you just need to register via the link below: **It will then give you access to the Libby App.**

Once you have registered and receive a SELFREG number you just need to email : [enquiries@libraryofbirmingham.com](mailto:enquiries@libraryofbirmingham.com) and request an account.

It takes just a couple of minutes to do this and then you will have access to some great resources - new titles, trending titles, classics, non - fiction and over 1700 magazines - all FREE to borrow.

<https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

## E-BOOKS APPS

e-books are a great way to access books, magazines and audiobooks. There are loads of great e-books apps around for you to access a huge range of resources.



**KINDLE** – The Kindle App has a selection of **free** books available including many classic titles. If you have **Prime membership** you can access even more titles via Prime Reading including magazines.



**PROJECT GUTENBERG** - Project Gutenberg is a library of over 70,000 ebooks. Although, primarily US titles there are some interesting books choose from.



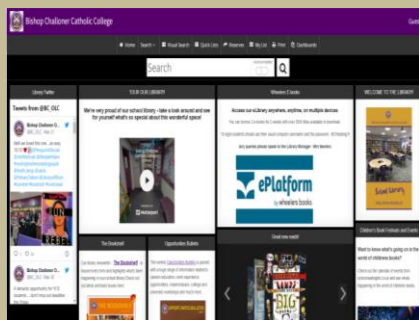
**OBOOKO** – Free online fiction and non-fiction titles for ages 13+



**ONLINENEWSPAPERS.COM** – Thousands of newspapers listed by country and region.



**ONLINEMAGAZINES** – Thousands of magazines listed by category.



**ACCESSIT** – Check out our library dashboard to see what's new in our library.

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



## 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>

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## 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

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## LIBRARY OPENING TIMES



Mon - Thurs - 8.00am - 4.00

Friday - 8.00am – 2.30pm