



THE BOOKSHELF

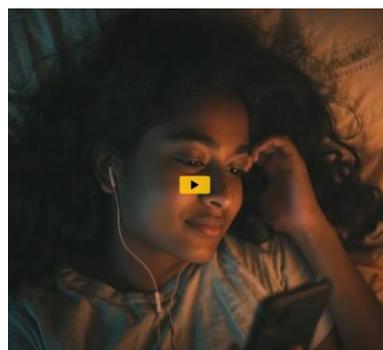
SPRING 2026

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.”

Charles Dickens – Great Expectations.

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

The theme for the
National Year of Reading is
GO ALL IN!!



The message is simple - Whatever you're into, read into it - GO ALL IN!! Each month in the school library we will be focusing on a different theme and sharing our top reads in that area.

Let's get everyone reading this year!

**The National Year
of Reading 2026**

**GO
ALL
IN.**

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

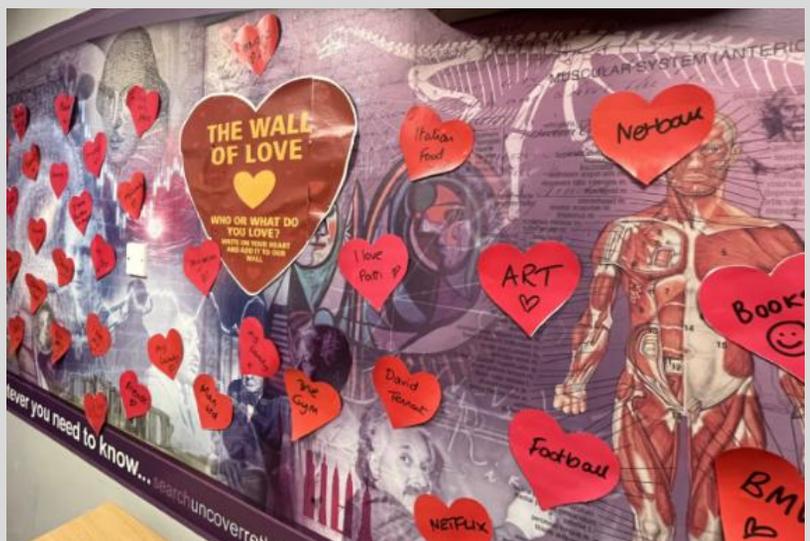
NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

We kicked off the New Year with our first theme focusing on
on
“New Year – New You”

January is all about new beginnings and we encouraged our staff and students to start the new year with a new hobby or revisit an old one. We have some fantastic books in our school library to help our students learn a new skill or just find out more about what they're into.



February was all about **LOVE**. As well as **Blind Date with a Book** we shared our top picks for books that delve into love and relationships. We also brought back the **WALL OF LOVE** and invited staff and students to tell us what or who they love!



Royal Society Young Peoples Book Prize



Following a successful application process we were lucky enough to be selected once again to receive the shortlisted books for this years [Royal Society Young Peoples Book Prize](#). There are 6 titles that cover a wide range of science-based topics including Geology, IT, Paleontology and the Human Body. The books are aimed at KS2 and KS3 students.

Our wonderful KS3 Science club members were invited to be the judging panel for this wonderful initiative. They were tasked with looking at different questions when reviewing the books with each area being marked out of 5.

- Ease of Reading
- Interest
- Look and Feel
- Inspiration

Our results have been sent off to the Royal Society and the winner will be announced later in the year.

If you're into it, read into it.

Discover more at goallin.org.uk



**GO
ALL
IN.**

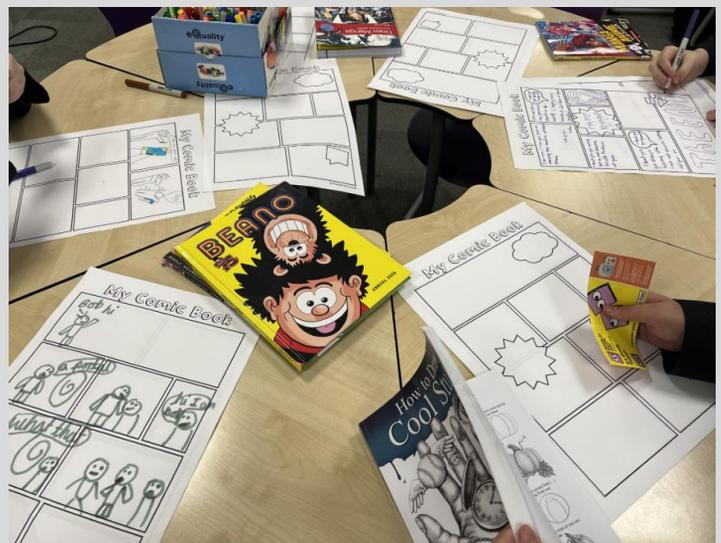
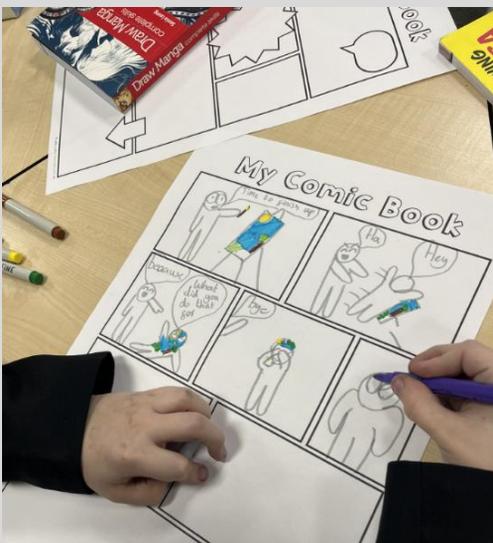
National
Year of
Reading
2026

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

World Book Day is all about helping children enjoy reading in their own way – whether that's sharing stories together, listening to audiobooks, reading comics, or dipping into non-fiction. Every child enjoys reading more when they can pick a book that excites them.

Explore this year's £1/€1.50 World Book Day books here:
<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

We celebrated **WBD** in school with a library session packed with book themed activities including a giant doodle mural depicting our favourite books and book characters, a comic book session and World Book Day Pictionary.



LIBRARY PRAYER AND SACRED SPACE

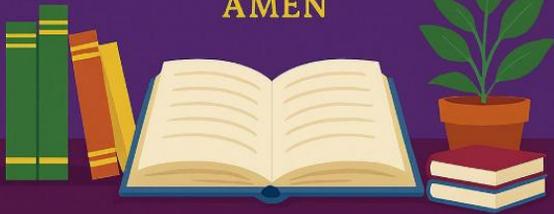
LIBRARY PRAYER



Thank you for the gift of our school library.

We pray that in here each student can give glory to you by developing their full potential through their curiosity, peace and joy flourishing in this room
Bless the books that teach us the stories that inspire us and the people who guide us

AMEN



Our new library sacred space is here to remind students that all areas of the school can be a place of reflection and thanks and our library prayer celebrates how grateful we are to have a wonderful space to read, socialise and inspire us.

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



READER LEADERS & READING CIRCLE!



Our two supported reading sessions that take place in the library every week are both going extremely well. Tuesday is Yr8 Paired Reading and Thursday is our Yr9 Reading Circle. Both sessions are wonderfully supported by our incredible Yr12 Reader Leaders.

The positive impact this has on the student's reading ability is measured via assessments carried out by the English Department during the academic year.

You can find out more about this programme here:

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

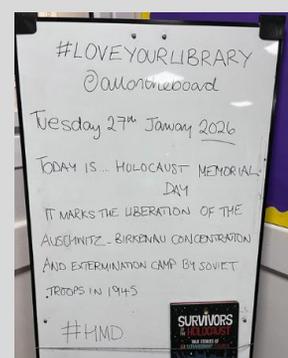
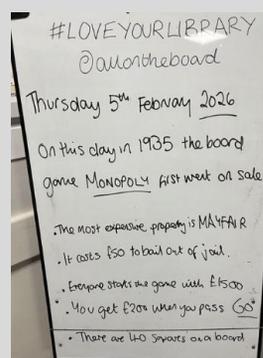
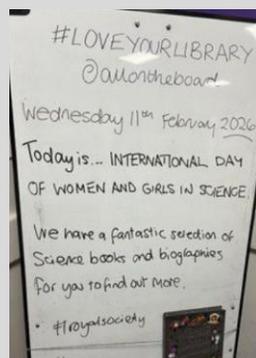
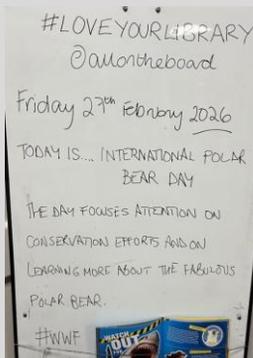


ALL ON THE BOARD

Our **@allontheboard** feature is as popular as ever. We love sharing what's being celebrated around the world with topics such as awareness days, famous birthdays, historical events and much more being covered.

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 and Instagram pages.

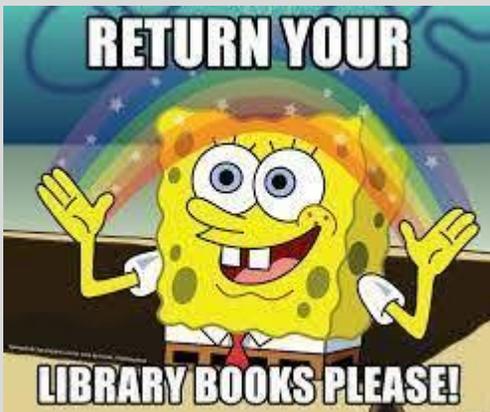
@BC_OLC and @bishopchallonerlc



WINTER & SPRING DISPLAYS!



This terms displays have included: Valentines Day, Women's History Month, New Year – New You, Verse Novels, Romance and Love and WBD!



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.

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.



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 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.



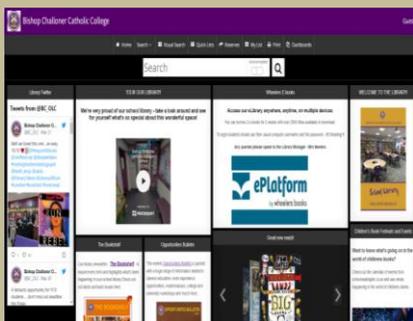
OBOOKO – Free online fiction and non-fiction titles for ages 13+



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 spring and summer evenings.

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