



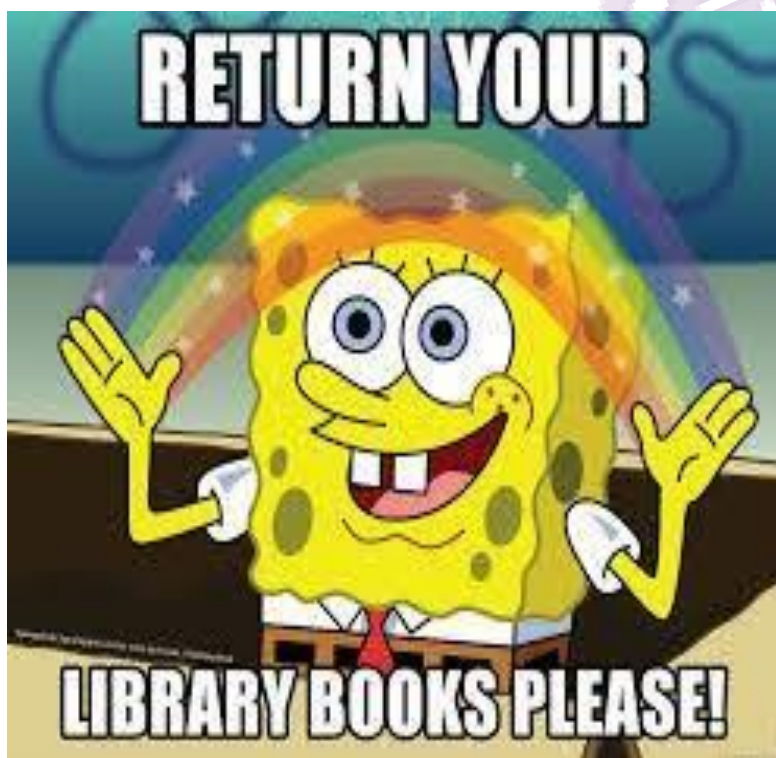
# THE BOOKSHELF

SUMMER 2025

**"Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the treehouse; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colours in a parched landscape."**

*To Kill a Mockingbird - HARPER LEE*

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



**WE CURRENTLY HAVE OVER 300 BOOKS OVERDUE FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.**

**PLEASE CHECK AT HOME AND RETURN ANY BOOKS YOU MAY HAVE BACK TO THE LIBRARY.**

**THANKYOU!**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*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.*

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

# WEBSITE UPDATE!



We've updated our library pages 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



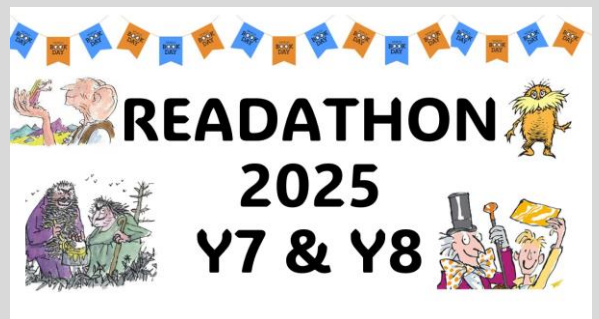
[bishopchallonerolc](https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk)

# READATHON!

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March was **Readathon Day** for Yr7 & Yr8 students at Bishop Challoner and it was amazing. Walking around the school and seeing so many students enjoying reading for the whole day was just wonderful.

To ensure that they had a steady supply of books we advertised a speedy book delivery service for the day. Staff emailed and off we went with a new supply of books for the students to read!

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Mrs Hodges and the wonderful students we raised over £3200!





# READER LEADERS!



Our final Paired Reading session took place at the end of last term and we celebrated with a little get together and ICE CREAMS!

The Yr8/Yr9 students who took part were all asked to give their feedback on how they felt the programme had been and how they benefitted from the sessions with their mentors and it was wonderful...

*"It was nice to help with something as enjoyable as reading."*

*"Liked talking with the Sixth Former."*

*"I got to know my reader and we had a great time reading."*

*"I had a chance to read without making any mistakes."*

*"I enjoyed reading with my leader but also just chatting."*

*"It was fun."*

*"Experiencing what it's like to teach someone."*

*"Liked helping others."*

*"It improved my reading."*

*"Seeing a difference in their reading."*

*"I enjoyed seeing someone improve and getting passionate about their reading."*

*"Learning new words."*

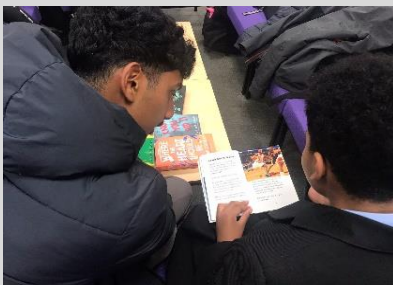
*"My mentor was nice."*

*"My reader explained things well."*

*"I found the book I was reading really interesting."*

You can find out more about this programme here:

<https://thechildrensliteracycharity.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/>



# EARLY CHILDHOOD READING STATISTICS

Reading aloud to your child is extremely beneficial to your kiddo for a variety of reasons. Learn some statistics about children and reading and start a reading routine today!

The more children are read to or read by themselves for fun at home on their own time, the higher their reading scores are in general.



Children's books contain 50% more words that they are unlikely to encounter through conversation, TV, and radio.

Being introduced to books and being read to before beginning school is the single most important factor that influences a child's early educational success.



Children who have more access to books and other print materials show more enjoyment in reading, books, and academics.

Children who receive the one-on-one special attention from being read to by a parent form positive associations with books and reading.





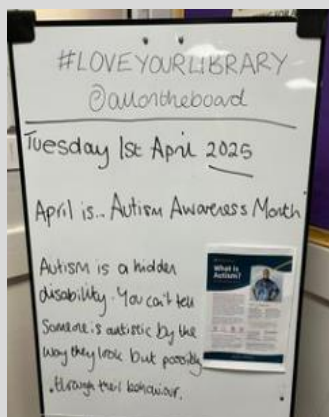
## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DISPLAYS!



### WATCH THIS SPACE!

Our new large wall display is being updated ready for the new term in September.

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.



## 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!

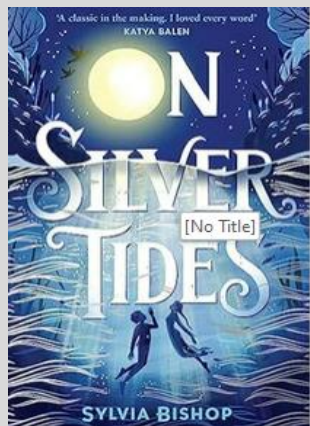
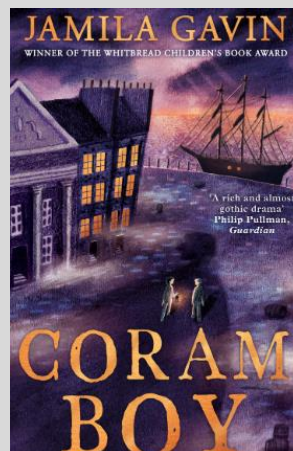
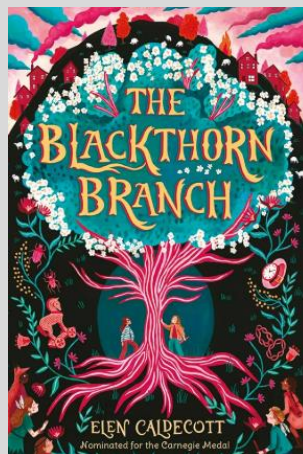
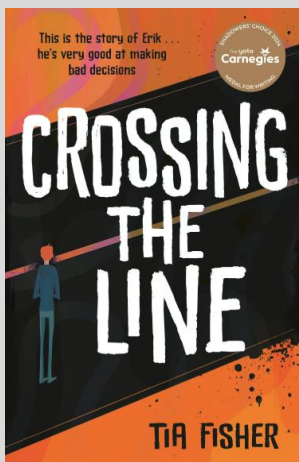
CHELTENHAM  
Festivals

We've loved the books in this year's RTRP programme.

The range of stories 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>



Our Projects | Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils

# RTRP Books



# Turn on the Subtitles



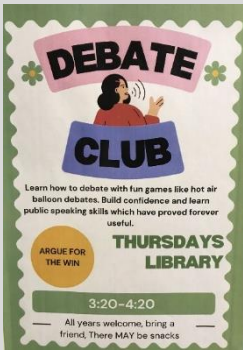
Hello! What takes ten seconds, costs nothing  
but could **change your child's life forever?**

**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.



## FRIDAY FILM CLUB

Our Friday film club continues to be a popular lunchtime activity for our KS3 students. Recent showings have included Inside Out, The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan and Snow White but, the favourite so far has been the Toy Story films.

The quietest the library has ever been!!!

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








## 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/>





**"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**





## 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?"](#)



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## 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.

We were delighted to hear that they recently won  
"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.**



## 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**