



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

# READING MATTERS





It's the most wonderful time of the year... to get to your library and pick out a book for the holidays.

As 2023 comes to a close, I am so very pleased to go over our end-of-year reports. The library has been bustling with readers enthusiastically finding their next great read. Our brilliant pupils have been reading voraciously this year, with over 4,500 books in circulation!

Our library enrichments are packed at Book Club, Student Librarians, Pokémon Club and Social Justice Club. The library hosted many events from Kindness Week activities to Halloween Storytime. Our biggest project was our Christmas Book Giveaway, through which we gifted every child in our school with a book of their choice.



I am very excited for the new year and cannot wait to share all of the exciting things happening in 2024.

Wishing all of you a happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year!

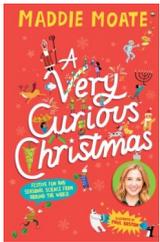
And as always, happy reading,

*Ms. Jawaid*



# Librarian's Recommendations

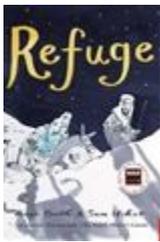
As the holidays rapidly approach, it's hard not to be swept up in the cheerful spirit of it all! If you're full of the warmth of the season, you'll certainly melt over these books that are set on or around the holidays. Romance, excitement, adventure, and even some historical facts show up on this list—there is truly something for everyone!



## **A Very Curious Christmas by Maddie Moate**

Discover how different people around the world celebrate the Christmas period, and the curious history behind festive traditions.

*Focuses on the festive season with lots of scientific facts subtly intertwined throughout.*



## **Refuge by Anne Booth**

A timely and timeless retelling of the Christmas story, inspired by refugee children everywhere.

*A beautifully illustrated and different approach to the refugee experience.*



## **Tinsel: The Girl who Invented Christmas by Sibéal Pounder**

From Victorian London, a twelve-year-old orphan girl, her horse and their friend Rinki have an adventure to the North Pole and together, they invent Christmas as we know it.

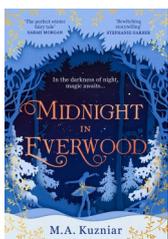
*Lively, energetic read with stacks of festive flavour and some good humour.*



## **Let it Snow by John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle**

Three Christmas-themed romantic stories by three best-selling authors.

*A group of illustrious names offer something for everyone in these well-written stories.*



## **Midnight in Everwood by M.A. Kuzniar**

After Drosselmeier constructs an elaborate theatrical set for her final ballet performance on Christmas Eve, Marietta discovers it carries a magic all of its own - a magic darker than anyone could imagine. As the clock chimes midnight, Marietta finds herself transported from her family's ballroom to a frozen sugar palace, silent with secrets, in a forest of snow-topped fir trees. She must find a way to return home before she's trapped in Everwood's enchanting grip forever.

*A deliciously dark retelling of The Nutcracker.*

# POKEMON CLUB TOURNAMENT 2023

Pokémon Club got a very special surprise with a visit from Pikachu himself. Our tournament is in its final rounds, and winners will be decided in January.

Pokémon Club meets in the library every Wednesday during the second half of lunch. Interested in learning how to trade or just comparing decks? Come and join us to learn everything about Pokémon.



# CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY 2023

Our library's festive motto is, "tis the season to be reading", and we wanted to get our pupils into the spirit with their own book to read this Christmas. And so, the Christmas Book Giveaway was created.

Each pupil in our school was gifted a book of their choice as a present for Christmas. Pupils from Y7 through Y11 had a chance to choose from a selection of fiction and non-fiction books. It has been beautiful to see pupils come into the library and bring their friends! We had some insightful and hilarious discussions about the book choices— our Y11, for example, love Exam Attack. For obvious reasons.



A massive thank you to our wonderful and volunteers who worked so very hard to and make this event a massive success!



# Library Events

## CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY 2023

Pikachu hung around and helped spread the joy of reading by helping to make sure we gave a book to every pupil for Christmas. It was very exciting!



# Library Events

## CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY 2023

Here is our list of books given to Y7 and Y8 through the Book Trust BookBuzz scheme:



### **Can You Feel the Noise** by Stewart Foster

A girl's life is dramatically changed when she wakes up completely deaf and has to adjust to her loss as well as finding a new outlet for her love of music and playing instruments.

### **Dreadwood** by Jennifer Killick

When scary things start happening during their Saturday school detention, four students must work together to survive.

### **Our Sister, Again** by Sophie Cameron

A family living on a remote Scottish island are given the chance to be part of a scientific trial which returns their dead teenage daughter to them as an AI robot.

### **Rise of the School for Good and Evil** by Soman Chainini

Rafal and Rhian are twin brothers: one is the school master for good and the other is the good master for evil at a prestigious boarding school where heroes and villains are trained.

### **The Secret Sunshine Project** by Benjamin Dean

After Bea's dad passes away and she and her family move to their Gran's in the countryside, she sets her mind to recreating London Pride as a way to bring sunshine back into their lives.

### **Twitch** by M G Leonard

A young boy with a love of birds foils an escaped prisoner's plans by using the skills he's learned bird watching.

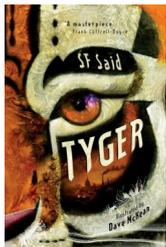
To see a complete list of our books, please visit the library.

# Library Events

## CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY 2023

Each year group has their own list of books to choose from, but we also have a copy of each book in the library. If pupils see a book they're interested in, in addition to their Christmas book, please stop by and grab a copy! Check out the lists below to see if anything piques your interest.

Here are the book choices for Y9:



### **Tyger**

by SF Said

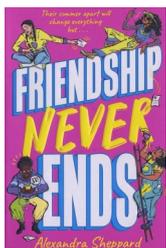
In an alternative London in which the British Empire still exists and foreigners are segregated, a young boy and girl work with the mysterious being called Tyger to open a mythical gateway and bring about social change.



### **How to Find a Missing Girl**

by Victoria Wlosok

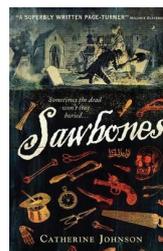
Crime thriller that follows a detective agency seeking the truth behind a growing trail of missing girls in their hometown.



### **Friendship Never Ends**

by Alexandra Sheppard

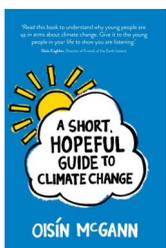
Four best friends spend the summer apart and keep in touch to share their experiences



### **Sawbones**

by Catherine Johnson

A forensic crime thriller set in eighteenth century London.



### **A Short Helpful Guide to Climate Change**

by Oisín McGann

A guide to climate change and what can be done to combat it.



### **Positively Teenage**

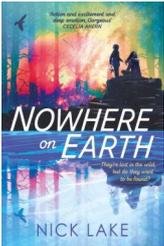
by Nicola Morgan

Advice on how to approach your teenage years with positivity and optimism.

# Library Events

## CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY 2023

Y10 and Y11 had a shared list of books to choose from. Many of these books have a reading age of 14+, so please let me know if you're interested in reading them and we can discuss the content.



### **Nowhere on Earth**

by Nick Lake

A teenage girl battles the Alaskan wilderness to save a crashlanded alien from authorities who are trying to capture him.



### **The Boxer**

by Nikesh Shukla

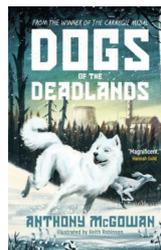
A teenage boy takes up boxing after being the victim of an unprovoked racist attack.



### **Lightning Strike**

by Tanya Landman

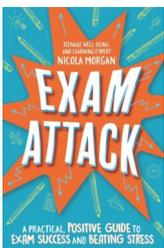
In Victorian London, a fourteen-year-old girl begins a strike to change the appalling working conditions of herself and other women who work at a match factory.



### **Dogs of the Deadlands**

by Anthony McGowan

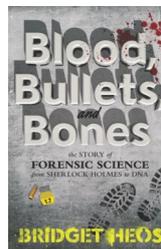
Follows the survival and adventures of the dogs and humans after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.



### **Exam Attack**

by Nicola Morgan

A guide for exam students, giving advice on methods of learning and revision, as well as tips about well-being and health. Includes information tailored for students with conditions such as dyslexia, autism, ADHD, and dyspraxia.



### **Blood, Bullets, Bones**

by Bridget Heos

Blood, Bullets, and Bones provides young readers with a fresh and fascinating look at the ever-evolving science of forensics

# Student Librarians



The Student Librarians have been as busy as Santa's elves this month. Each Student Librarian adopted a shelf to turn the library into a Christmas Wonderland. They also went above and beyond as they assisted in our Christmas Book Giveaway.

Student Librarians have also curated a fantastic Christmas reading list. Be sure to check out their amazing recommendations, perfect to curl up with this holiday.

In appreciation of their hard work, I was inspired by Iceland's Christmas Eve book tradition of jólabókaflóð (pronounced: yo-la-bok-a-flot), in which people exchange books as gifts and read together.

*Jolabokafloð.* Jolabokafloð, literally translating to "Christmas Book Flood," is a unique and cherished tradition in Iceland, celebrated on Christmas Eve. This tradition involves giving and receiving new books, but its essence lies in the joy of reading them together as everyone sips hot chocolate.



This is exactly how we celebrated the festive season in the library as each of our Student Librarians received a book from their wish list. We had a lovely time as we sat together and took time to enjoy our new reads with some hot chocolate and cookies.



Are you interested in joining our team of Student Librarians? We will be opening up positions in January. Successful applicants are invited to attend an interview. Once part of the team, Student Librarians learn the day to day running of the library and complete a training programme.

Student Librarians can also volunteer to assist with open evenings and other library events. The scheme gives students practical experience to put on their CV's, helps them to become more confident, and they become great ambassadors for the library.

If you want to be part of our working team, please speak to Ms. Jawaid.

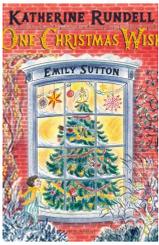


A great big thank you to my wonderful Student Librarians, especially Pikachu (aka Lauren), for their help in making the Pokémon Tournament a great success. Couldn't do it without you!



# Student Librarians' Recommendations

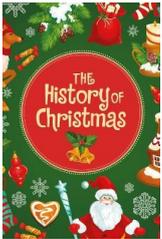
Season's readings from our Student Librarians to get you into the spirit of Christmas!



## **One Christmas Wish by Katherine Rundell**

A lonely boy wishes upon a shooting star on Christmas Eve and has a magical adventure when the Christmas tree decorations come alive.

*A warm, traditional tale. -Phoebe*



## **The History of Christmas by Helen Cox Cannons**

Explores the history of the traditions and beliefs that we follow at Christmas.

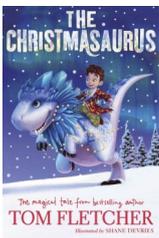
*Educates you on lost and hidden traditions you may not have known before. -Sophia*



## **The Christmas Pig by JK Rowling**

When Jack's beloved toy Dur Pig goes missing on Christmas Eve, he sets off to rescue him from the land of lost things with the help of the Christmas pig.

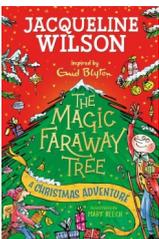
*A magical story of perseverance. -Henry*



## **The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher**

A boy has a magical Christmas when he comes into possession of his own dinosaur.

*A heart-warming and sweet story of ambition and doing the right thing. -Aryanna*



## **The Magic Faraway Tree: a Christmas Adventure by Jacqueline Wilson**

Explore the much-loved Magic Faraway Tree at the most special time of the year.

*Full of adventure and magic. -Hayden*

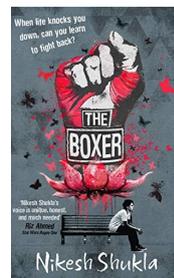
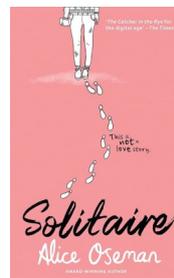
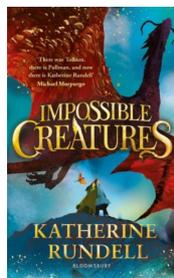
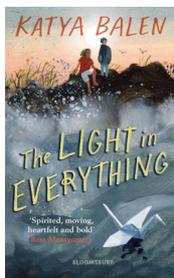
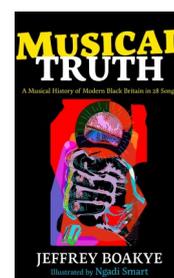
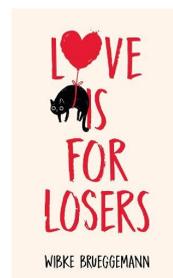
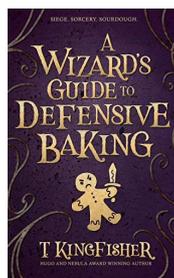
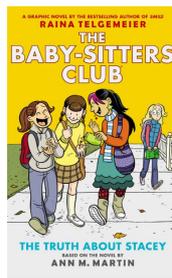
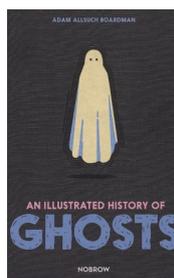
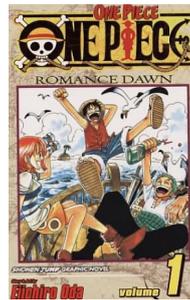


## **Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson**

A fairy-tale story of friendship, belonging and bravery, in an adventure through a winter wonderland.

*A perfect Christmas time story. -Lauren*

# OLSB LIBRARY'S FAVOURITE READS 2023



# Professor Benjamin Zephaniah

15th April 1958 - 7th December 2023



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

Lovingly known as 'the people's poet', Benjamin Zephaniah was a poet, novelist, musician, playwright, actor, political activist, and a fierce advocate for animal rights,

He was determined to "work with words", despite being expelled from school at the age of 13, unable to read or write because of his dyslexia. He spent time in prison, where he began to write.

At the age of 22, he moved to London and published his first book. He went on to publish fourteen poetry collections, seven plays, five novels, five children's books as well as two further books and an autobiography. He was awarded honorary doctorates by London South Bank University, the University of Exeter and the University of Westminster

His acclaimed novels: *Face*, *Gangsta Rap*, *Refugee Boy*, *Windrush Child* and *Terror Kid* are available in our library.

"This planet is for everyone, borders are for no one. It's all about freedom."

— Benjamin Zephaniah, *Refugee Boy*

