



Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS



HELLO!

Welcome to the June Edition of Our Library Newsletter

Dear Readers,

As we approach the end of another academic year, June is a natural time to reflect on the books we have discovered, the stories that have stayed with us, and the many ways reading continues to enrich our lives. Whether you are an avid reader who always has a book on the go or someone who is still searching for that one story that truly captures your imagination, I hope this newsletter inspires you to pick up something new this summer.

Reading is one of the most powerful habits we can develop. Through books, we can travel across the world, experience different cultures, explore history, imagine the future, and gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and others. Stories allow us to see life through another person's eyes, helping us develop empathy, compassion, and curiosity about the world around us. At a time when we are constantly surrounded by screens, notifications, and distractions, reading also offers something increasingly valuable: the opportunity to slow down, focus, and think deeply.

This month's newsletter highlights books connected to Refugee Week, encouraging us to reflect on the experiences of people who have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and a better future. Literature has a unique ability to humanise complex issues and help us understand the challenges, hopes, and dreams that people carry with them. The books featured this month remind us of the importance of kindness, resilience, courage, and community.

We are also celebrating stories that explore friendship, identity, belonging, and self-discovery. One of the greatest strengths of children's literature is its ability to help readers recognise themselves in stories while also introducing them to experiences different from their own. These books remind us that everyone deserves to feel accepted, valued, and respected, and that our differences often make our communities stronger.

Happy Reading!

Ms Jawaid
Librarian and Reading Lead



LIBRARIAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

COURAGE!

Refugee Week
15-21 June 2026

REFUGEE WEEK: STORIES OF COURAGE AND HOPE

Refugee Week encourages us to learn about the experiences of people who have been forced to leave their homes and start again somewhere new. Stories can help us develop empathy and understanding while reminding us of the strength and resilience of the human spirit.



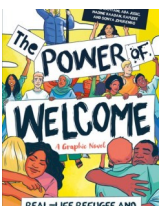
Halfway to Somewhere by Jose Pimienta

This graphic novel follows Ave, who moves from Mexico to the US amid her parents' divorce. She arrives in a strange place with half her family—and struggles with language, identity, and finding a sense of home. A beautifully illustrated tale of cultural transition and belonging.



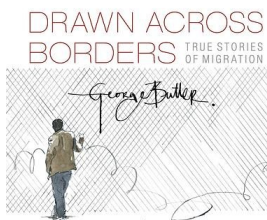
Boy, Everywhere by A.M. Dassu

Follows a wealthy Syrian family who are forced to flee their comfortable life in Damascus and embark on a perilous journey to the UK



The Power of Welcome by Ramzee

A powerful graphic novel exploring the struggle for survival of displaced people. With true stories from Ukraine, Somalia, Bosnia, Syria and Afghanistan, this moving book collects important tales about the real journeys of people forced from their homes by conflict.



Drawn Across Borders by George Butler

A collection of vivid and powerful stories drawn on the front lines of migration by award-winning artist George Butler. For thousands of years humans have moved around the world, to seek a better life,



STUDENT LIBRARIANS

As we begin preparing the library for the end of another busy school year, our student librarians have been hard at work helping with the many behind-the-scenes jobs that keep the library running smoothly. From tidying shelves and organising displays to helping prepare resources and getting ready for our end-of-year procedures, their support has been invaluable.



This year, we also say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 student librarians. While we are excited for the next stage of their journey, they will be greatly missed in the library.

Our Year 11 librarians have been so much more than helpers. They have been welcoming, dependable and kind role models for younger students. They have shown compassion when supporting others, confidence when taking on responsibilities and a genuine enthusiasm for reading and library life. Whether recommending books, helping students find resources or simply offering a friendly smile, they have helped make the library a warm and welcoming space for everyone.



What has always stood out most is the way they have carried themselves with maturity, patience and kindness. They have given their time generously, approached every task with positivity and contributed so much to the sense of community that makes our library special.

Thank you for everything you have done over the years. Your hard work, commitment and friendship have been deeply appreciated, and the library will not be quite the same without you. We wish you every success and happiness in the future and hope you will always remember that you will have a place in the OLSB Library family.

Good luck, Year 11s, you will be missed!

**Thank
YOU!**



**GOOD
LUCK!**

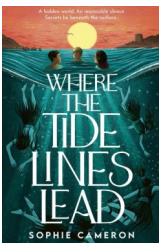


LIBRARIAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS ABOUT BELONGING, FRIENDSHIP AND BEING YOURSELF

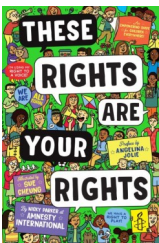


Great stories remind us that everyone deserves to feel valued, accepted, and understood. These titles explore friendship, confidence, identity, and finding your place in the world.



Where the Tide Line Leads by Sophie Cameron

Children have been mysteriously vanishing along the Spanish coast but when Elio and Sam start investigating they discover a world they couldn't have imagined.



These Rights are your Rights by Nicky Parker

Every child has special human rights, including the rights to education, a safe home and a clean environment, as well as equality and protection from harm. Children even have the right to play!



Perfectly Preventable Deaths by Deidre Sullivan

Twin sisters find themselves influenced by dark forces in the remote Irish town they have moved to with their mother and step-father.

Sixteen-year-old twins Maddy and Catlin move to Ballyfrann - an isolated, peculiar town in the mountains. A place where, for generations, teenage girls have gone missing.



A Sister Like You by Sarah Hagger-Holt

Two adopted girls meet when they start at a new high school and find that they are half-sisters.



Speak Up by Rebecca Burgess

Follows an autistic girl who finds friendship where she least expects it and learns to express her true self in a world where everyone defines her by her differences.



LIBRARIAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

WORLD CUP 2026 READING RECOMMENDATIONS

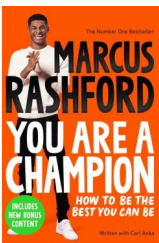


The FIFA World Cup 2026 is now underway across the USA, Canada and Mexico, with millions of fans around the world following the action. Whether you're cheering on your favourite team, keeping up with the latest results or simply enjoying the excitement of the tournament, it's the perfect time to pick up a football-themed read. From inspiring true stories to thrilling fiction, these books celebrate teamwork and determination.



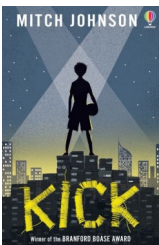
Heroes of the World Cup by Simon Mugford

A guide to the best football players, from the men's and women's World Cup teams.



You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka

Marcus Rashford shares the lessons that helped him achieve success on and off the football field. An inspiring and practical guide filled with advice about confidence, character and achieving your goals.



Kick by Mitch Johnson

Budi dreams of becoming a professional footballer. When an opportunity arises that could change his life forever, he must make a difficult decision. A powerful story about courage, ambition and doing the right thing.



World Cup Greatest Moments by Matt and Tom Oldfield

Experience the greatest stories ever told as we go through the greatest moments ever in the history of the football World Cup!



Football Academy: Reading the Game by Tom Palmer

Ben's love of football is being overshadowed by worries away from the pitch. A fast-paced and relatable story about friendship, family and finding the courage to speak up.



LIBRARY EVENTS



The winners of the 2026 Carnegie Medals have been announced, celebrating some of the most outstanding books published for child and young people this year.

This year's Carnegie Medal for Writing was awarded to *Wolf Siren* by Beth O'Brien. A powerful reimagining of the Red Riding Hood story, the novel explores disability, identity and belonging through the story of a young girl navigating a world that often misunderstands her. The book was also chosen by young readers across the UK as the winner of the Shadders' Choice Award for Writing. Young readers selected the *Lord of the Flies: The Graphic Novel*, for the Shadders' Choice Award for Illustration.

The Carnegie Medal for Illustration was awarded to *Wiggling Words*, written and illustrated by Kate Rolfe. This innovative and highly personal picture book offers readers an insight into the experience of dyslexia, using colour and design to bring the challenges and joys of learning to read to life.

If you're looking for your next great read, drop by the library to check out these award-winning titles for yourself. They showcase the power of stories to build empathy, broaden perspectives and inspire readers of all ages.

I particularly recommend *Wiggling Words*, which offers an engaging and accessible exploration of how different people experience reading.