



Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS



Hello!

Dear Readers,

November was all about celebrating the power of real stories, knowledge, and discovery through Non Fiction November.

Our pupils have been busy quizzing on Accelerated Reader, earning high scores, collecting achievement points, and winning special library prizes for their enthusiasm and effort.

As a Catholic school, we also marked All Souls throughout November by sharing books that invite reflection, remembrance, and gratitude for the people who shaped our lives. From biographies to stories of courage and hope, our displays encouraged pupils to read with intention and hold others in their prayers.

In the words of Saint Cecilia, whose feast falls in November, "Be brave and keep your faith strong." This spirit of courage and learning guided our reading journey all month long.

Happy Reading,

Ms. Jarvaid



LIBRARY FAQs

A reading book is an essential part of your school equipment, make sure that you are prepared by dropping to check out a book from your library.

Opening Hours:

The Library is **open** at the following times:

Before school from 8.00am to 8.15am

At break time from 10:05am to 10:20am

At lunch time 12:20pm to 1:15 pm

After school from 3:20pm to 4pm (except Fridays, when the library **closes** at 3:30)

Our school library provides students with an opportunity to celebrate reading in a relaxing environment.

Here, you can take out books, read, complete independent study, or enjoy one of our many exciting enrichment opportunities:

Monday lunch (second half): Multicultural Club

Tuesday lunch (second half): Dungeons and Dragons Club

Wednesday lunch (second half): Pokémon Club

Thursday lunch (second half): Student Librarians' Meeting

Friday lunch (second half): Social Justice Club

Borrowing Rules:

Book Limit: 2 books at one time.

Loan period: 2 weeks.

Need more time? To renew any materials, books must be shown to the librarian.

Current issues of magazines and research material may be issued with special permission.

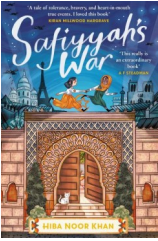
Books should be kept in good condition.

Late book? Lost book? Damaged book? Accidents happen! Please speak to Ms. Jawaid.



Librarian's Recommendations

Here are a list of books that highlight the essence of Remembrance. They're awe-inspiring, even when tragic, and they can make us laugh, cry, or jump for joy. I think it's important for us to reflect on our history and learn from it.



Safiyyah's war by Hiba Noor Khan

A young girl helps in the resistance work by members of the Grand Mosque in Paris whose bravery saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during World War II.

Compelling adventure story based on true events.



When the War came Home by Lesley Parr

After the end of the First World War, Natty meets two soldiers who are struggling to cope with what they've been through.

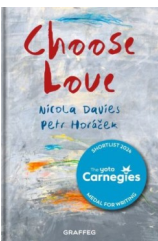
Wonderful story with emotive characters covering mental health, the stigma of being different, and accepting yourself.



When Fishes Flew by Michael Morpurgo

A seventeen-year-old girl travels to her ancestral home of Ithaca and there discovers, with the help of a god, the story of her great aunt's heroic actions during World War II.

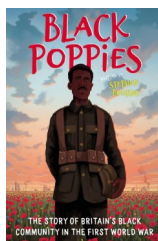
Weaves Greek myth with history to tell a tale of family ties and a talking fish!



Choose Love by Nicola Davies

Choose Love is a cycle of poems that highlights the experience of those forced to become refugees.

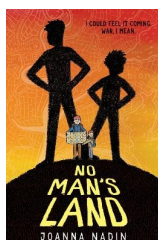
Raw and heartbreaking poems that will invoke compassion and empathy.



Black Poppies: Britain's black community in World War 1 by Stephen Bourne

Discover the stories of black British servicemen who fought on the battlefields in the First World War.

The stories bring the characters to life, highlighting the dedication and bravery of Black British Servicemen and women.



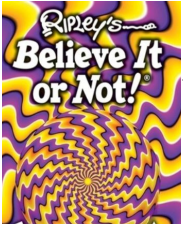
No Man's Land by Joanna Nadin

In a dystopian far-right version of Britain, a ten-year-old boy tries to understand who's right or wrong as war looms.

A thought provoking story with believable characters that you root for from the start.

Student Librarian's Recommendations

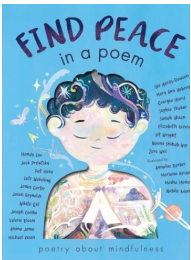
Non-fiction must-reads from our Student Librarians.



Ripley's believe it or not!: escape the ordinary by Jeff Tibbals

Transports readers to a world beyond imagination--where truth is stranger than fiction!

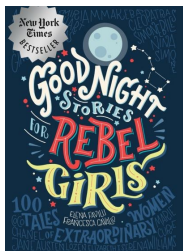
An immersive book that enlightens you with facts from our world. -Aryanna



Find Peace in a Poem by Multiple Authors

Presents a collection of poems about mindfulness written by various contemporary voices.

As you read the poems, you feel yourself calming. -Sophia



Good Night for Rebel Girls by Francesca Cavallo

Presents the biography of 100 inspiring women

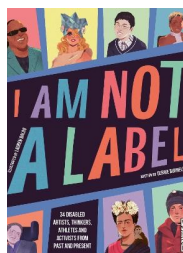
Gives confidence to girls! - Annie



Be Resilient by Nicola Morgan

A guide for teenagers for building mental resilience to help them through their teenage years and give them coping strategies for life.

Gives helpful advice for exams friendship, global events and other challenges. -Isabelle



I am not a label by Cerrie Burnwell

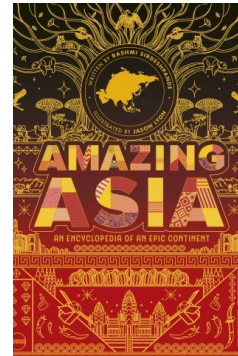
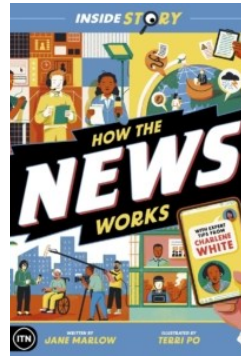
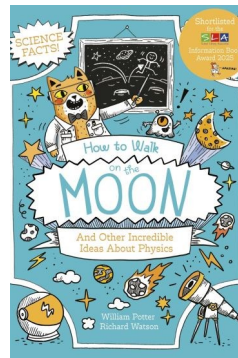
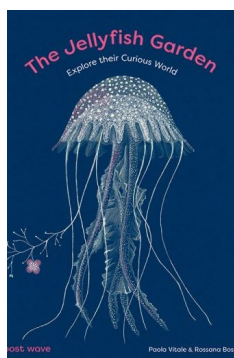
A brief look at the lives and achievements of 30 people with disabilities, from artists to activists, from history and the present day.

Well illustrated, empowering book that highlights diverse role models. -Ellie

INFORMATION BOOK AWARD 2025

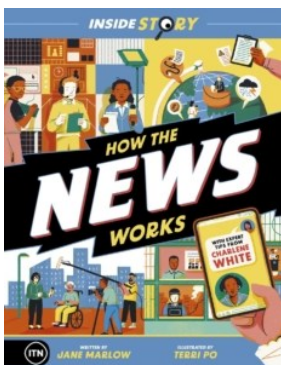


Beautifully transformative books' recognised in the School Library Association's annual celebration of information books. The Information Book Award was founded to celebrate the value of non-fiction books and highlight the amazing quality of information books available for young people. Check out the selection from the shortlist from the library.



And the winner is...

How the News Works by Jane Marlow



Presents where news comes from, the history of news and how it works around the world, as well as who's who in the news process, what issues are facing the news today, what can we expect from news in the future and so much more.

Magazine-style format and bite-sized chunks of info makes this an accessible resource which covers a lot of useful areas of news and journalism. With the influx of independent journalists on social media and the "fake news" epidemic, this is an essential read for all discerning learners!



Library events

November has been a busy and inspiring month in the library, filled with reading, reflection, creativity, and community. As the darker evenings draw in, pupils have embraced the library as a place of warmth, calm, and curiosity. Our focus for the month was Non Fiction November, a celebration of real stories, real knowledge, and real voices from across history, culture, science, and the natural world. Pupils explored a wide range of topics through our displays and book selections, from space and art to cookery, inventions, biographies, and world cultures. Many pupils also took part in our Accelerated Reader challenge, quizzing with enthusiasm, improving their scores, and winning special prizes for their dedication and progress. It has been wonderful to see how reading for pleasure and reading for learning continue to grow in our school.

As a Catholic school, November also holds special meaning as the month of All Souls. The library highlighted books that encourage reflection, remembrance, and gratitude. Pupils were invited to choose titles that explore resilience, faith, courage, and the lives of people who have shaped history. Our All Souls display encouraged a quiet moment of thought for loved ones and for the many people who inspire us through their stories.



Throughout November, the library has also been an active study space for pupils across the school. Year 7 pupils have been using the library to complete homework, practise independent reading, and develop strong organisational habits that will support them throughout secondary school. Year 11 pupils have made excellent use of the space for revision, working through mock exam preparation, practising past papers, and supporting one another in quiet study groups. Staff have commented on the positive atmosphere the pupils have created through their maturity, focus, and respect for the shared space.

The Social Justice Club and Multicultural Club have continued their work toward the LiveSimply Award, using the library as a base for planning, research, and discussion. Pupils have been exploring themes of gratitude, compassion, equality, and global citizenship through reading and conversation. They have planned awareness activities, created displays, and worked together to understand what it means to live simply, act justly, and care for others. Their commitment to learning about the world and contributing to the school community has been one of the highlights of the term.





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ZEN ZONE

Relax take it easy



TUESDAYS
IN THE LIBRARY
12:50-1:15 PM



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ATHENAEUM SOCIETY



THURSDAYS
IN THE LIBRARY
12:50-1:15 PM



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MULTICULTURAL CLUB

MONDAYS
IN THE LIBRARY
12:25-12:50 PM

