Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS



Hello!



Welcome to our October edition of the Library Newsletter!

As the autumn leaves fall and we reach the end of our first half term, it's been a busy and exciting time in the library. Pupils in Years 7–9 have been taking Accelerated Reader quizzes with great enthusiasm — with over 189 books in circulation this half term alone! It's wonderful to see so many students diving into new stories and challenging themselves as readers.



This October, we celebrated both Black History Month and Halloween, blending learning with creativity and fun. To honour Black History Month, we hosted special events highlighting Black history, voices, and culture, alongside thoughtful book talks and discussions. We also marked National Poetry Day by exploring works from Black poets whose powerful words shed light on the past and its impact on today's world.

Our shelves were filled with themed displays featuring spooky reads, haunting classics, and inspiring works by Black authors, perfect for the season!

As we head into the half-term break, I hope your library books keep you company and spark your imagination wherever the holidays take you.

Happy reading,

Ms. Jawaid

Ms. Jawaid
Librarian and Reading Lead



Library FAQs

A reading book is an essential part of your school equipment, make sure 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 1:20 pm

After school from 3:20pm to 4pm (except Fridays, **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: Multicultural Club

Tuesdays: Dungeons and Dragons Club

Wednesday lunch (second half): Pokémon Club

Thursday lunch (second half): Student Librarians

Friday lunch (second half): First Chapter Fridays

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

BOOKS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH & EVERY MONTH



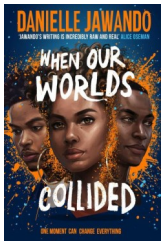
Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam
After a sixteen-year-old American boy is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison, he struggles to find a way to keep true to himself.

Powerful, lyrical tale of systemic racism and the redemptive quality of art.



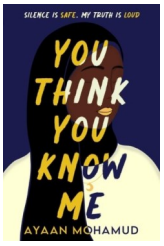
Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah
A young Jamaican boy arriving in Britain with his parents in the late 1940's tries to make the best of things despite of the racism he encounters.

A timely novel which encapsulates the tragedy of the WR generation.



When Our Worlds Collided by Danielle Jawando
Three teenagers are brought together when they witness a fatal attack on a 14-year-old boy and have to contend with institutional racism in the aftermath.

Individual stories of the three compelling central characters weave together & reflect on big issues of race, prejudice, class & friendship. Thought provoking & sobering read



You Think You Know Me by Ayaan Mohamud
Drawing on her own experiences of Islamophobia, Ayaan shines a light on the lives behind the headlines, in a story of how a racist attack leads one girl to speak up.

A compelling exploration of many issues in an authentic and vivid voice, and a welcome spotlight on British-Somali life. Tense and at times raw, there are snatches of humour and fun.

Student Librarians' Recommendations

Our Student Librarians have picked out thrillers and chillers for you to read...if you dare!



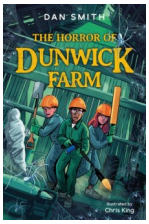
Cinderella is Dead by KaLynn Bayron
A young girl living in a world where the Cinderella story is true and all girls are expected to follow the same life refuses to conform and to deny who she really is.

Not all thrillers have to involve murder! This one is a twisted Cinderella tale! —Annie



Your Turn to Die by Sue Wallman
The uncovering of a dead body in the garden of an old country house starts off a series of terrifying events for the three families that are staying there for New Year.

The definition of a page-turner.—Lauren



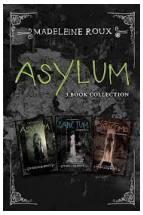
The Horrors of Dunwick Farm by Dan Smith
Three friends try to uncover the truth when a mysterious plane crash sets off an unsavoury sequence of events.

Short but captivating thriller.—Aryanna



It's Behind You by Kathryn Foxfield
Contestants in a TV reality show find themselves at the mercy of a killer in the caves where the show's being made.

Bone chilling story perfect for Halloween with a deadly game show! - Isabelle



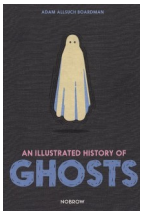
Asylum by Madeline Roux
A teen is wrongfully committed to the Brookline psychiatric hospital and must escape before he becomes a victim of the evil warden's experiments.

Features illustrations from actual asylums which help builds the setting! Perfect for ghost story lovers.—Sophia



Pumpkin Heads by Rainbow Rowell
Two long-term friends make a lasting memory from their last time together at the pumpkin farm where they work each autumn

Not a horror but a Romcom for Halloween!—Lauretta



An Illustrated History of Ghosts by Adam Boardman
Explores the history and culture surrounding ghosts and spirits and our fascination with them

Spirit world non-fiction that is incredibly interesting.—Ellie

Student Librarians



This October, our fearless Student Librarians once again took charge of transforming the library into a hub of spine-tingling creativity.
They stocked the shelves with chilling tales from gothic classics that whisper from the past to modern thrillers that make you suspicious of every creak in the hallway. For the less brave among us, there were also spooky-but-silly graphic novels and cosy mysteries with just the right dose of fright.

We've also stocked hundreds of horror-themed reads across every subgenre imaginable mystery, fantasy, romance, and even the occasional ghostly historical fiction. And if you're curious about how the spooky season is celebrated beyond our shores, don't miss our Folklore, History, and Foreign Languages shelves for eerie legends and global traditions.

Finally, the Student Librarians' Horror Picks are now live!

Perfect for reading alone... *if you dare.*



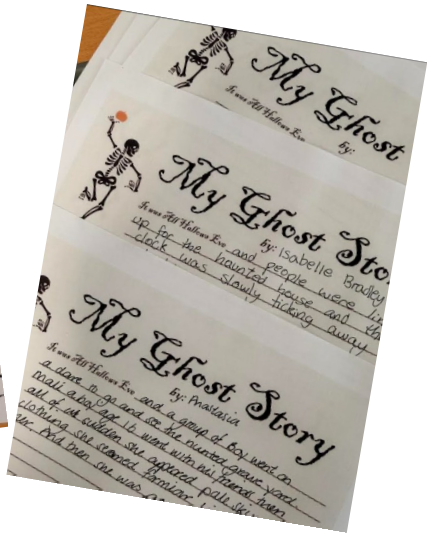


Library Events

Instead of our usual story time, this year we handed the broomsticks over to the students! Pupils brewed up their own spooky stories and magic potions, filling the library with bubbling creativity (and possibly mild chaos).

The results? Eerie tales, sweet concoctions, and more fun than anyone was prepared for.







With the launch of Accelerated Reader, pupils have been quizzing on the books they read in the library. Each quiz taken earns them a House point and an 100% score earns them a special prize!



