



Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS



Hello!

Welcome to the September edition of our School Library Newsletter!

September is always a special time as we move from summer days into the crisp mornings of autumn, bringing fresh energy and curiosity into the library. The library is more than just a space filled with books, it's a place to explore new ideas, dive into fascinating stories, and develop a lifelong love of learning. Whether you're looking for the latest bestsellers, researching for a class project, or simply seeking a quiet corner to read, we're here to support and inspire you.

The library has been bustling and busy from Year 7 starting off with over 200 books issued this month to Year 11 revising before school as well as after school as well as taking out books to read for pleasure!

This year, we're especially pleased to be launching Accelerated Reader with our Year 7–9 students. Accelerated Reader is a programme designed to help you find books that match your reading level and interests. Once you've finished a book, you'll be able to take an online quiz to check your understanding and track your progress. It's a great way to build confidence, set personal goals, and celebrate your reading achievements throughout the year.

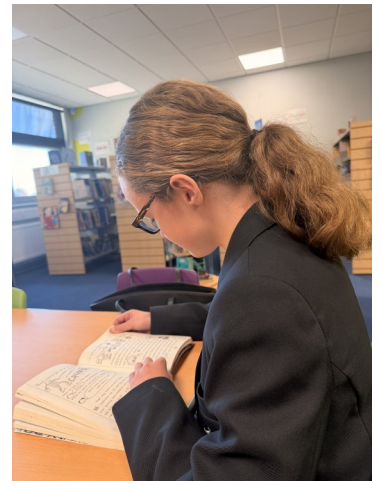
Be sure to check out our enrichment opportunities, reading lists, and special displays.

If you haven't had a chance to stop by the library yet this school year, we encourage you to do so. There's always something new to discover and we can't wait to see you!

Happy reading,



Librarian and Reading Lead



Library FAQs

Your school library is a hub of knowledge, culture, learning, and growth. It is a safe space to satiate your curiosity and grow your mind through reading. You can find the answers you seek—just ask! Ms. Jawaid is your school librarian.

The library is open every day at break, lunch, and after school.

Our hours are:

Monday and Wednesday: 8:40 AM— 4PM

Tuesday and Thursday: 8:15 AM—4PM

Friday: 8:40 AM—3:30 PM

The library provides access to a range of resources to support your reading, research, and information literacy. We have over 4,500 books across several genres and subjects available for check. You can borrow books for two weeks at a time. Books can be renewed, should you need more time, with Ms. Jawaid.

Reference books for core subjects and periodicals are available to read with the library.

You can also sign up to use laptops during lunch to complete any school work.

We hold several exciting Enrichment clubs . Sign up for your place to attend in the library.

Mondays— Culture Collective

Tuesday— Zen Zone

Wednesdays— Adventurers Club

Thursdays—Atheneum Society

Fridays—Social Justice Club

The library hosts special events every month. Sign up is required for attendance.



Student Librarians Special Project

Student Librarians Create Catholic Mural to Welcome New School Year

To mark the beginning of the new school year, our student librarians have added a creative and faith-filled touch to the library doors. Together, they designed and painted a Catholic mural that reflects the school's values and provides an inspiring welcome for everyone who visits the library.

This project was created by two of our dedicated Year 11 student librarians, Aryanna and Sophia, who are also preparing for their GCSE Art. Their talent, creativity, and commitment shine through in this piece, which not only brightens our library doors but also serves as a testament to the way art and faith can come together in a learning space.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to them for their hard work and effort. Balancing the demands of GCSEs with their role as librarians is no small achievement, and this mural is a lasting legacy that will inspire pupils throughout the year.

In many ways, the mural captures what our library stands for: a place of knowledge, creativity, reflection, and growth. Each time pupils walk through the doors, they are reminded of the values of love, hope, and peace that underpin both our faith and our learning. As our wonderful artists put it, *"We wanted the doors to tell a story of love, hope, and peace every time someone walks into the library."*

This beautiful mural is more than decoration, it's a reminder of the values that shape our community and an inspiring way to begin the year of reading and learning together.

The mural is divided into three striking panels:

- At the top, a vivid **Sacred Heart of Jesus** radiates with light and flame, symbolising Christ's love and compassion.
- The middle panel features a **wooden cross draped with a white cloth**, a sign of the Resurrection and the hope it brings.
- At the bottom, a **white dove soars toward the golden sun**, representing the Holy Spirit, peace, and guidance for the year ahead.



Student Librarians' Recommendations

Our Student Librarians have picked out these heart warming graphic novels that show strength of spirit!



El Deafo by Cece Bell

A graphic novel memoir about a girl growing up with a hearing impairment and how she copes with the trials of family life, friendship, and middle school.

Lots of hidden meanings behind a really good story.—Lauretta



Run on your New Legs by Wataru Midori

School soccer comes to an end...permanently. But endings are always followed by beginnings-and so, armed with a prosthetic leg, Kikuzato finds a new dream. He's going to become a track star and win the gold at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics!

.Demonstrates great resilience and determination because the character learns to accept his differences. —

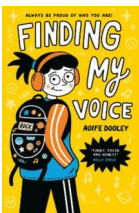
Aryanna



Making Friends: Together Forever by Kristen Gudsnuk

Dany's magical sketchbook has steered most of her middle-school life so far -- it even helped create her best friend, Madison. But now that the sketchbook is gone, and Madison with it, Dany's back to being a loner.

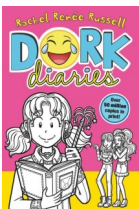
Full of twists and turns.—Sophia



Finding my Voice by Aoife Dooley

A twelve year old girl starts secondary school and wants to get a band together for the Battle of the Bands competition

Relatable school journey about making friends.—Isabelle



Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell

Follows the diary of a 14-year-old teenager when she moves to a new school.

Evolving in a new school environment and finding your friend group.—Anastasia

Student Librarians

The Role of Student Librarians: Leaders in Our Library – Now Open to Applications

Our school library is a bustling hub of activity, and at the heart of it are our dedicated Student Librarians. These enthusiastic volunteers play a crucial role in helping the library run smoothly, providing valuable support to both students and staff.

But what exactly do Student Librarians do, and why are they so important?

Assisting with Daily Operations: Student Librarians help with the day-to-day tasks that keep the library organized and welcoming. From shelving books and checking materials in and out to helping maintain a tidy, well-organized space, their work ensures that everyone can find what they need quickly and easily.



Supporting Fellow Pupils: Need help finding the perfect book for a project or a great novel to read for fun? Student Librarians are there to assist! They are trained in how to navigate the library catalogue and can recommend books based on your interests. Whether it's locating a specific resource or offering advice on your next great read, they are knowledgeable guides for their peers.

Managing Special Projects: Throughout the year, Student Librarians take part in special library projects and events. This could involve setting up book displays, helping plan reading challenges, organizing author visits, or assisting during book fairs. Their creativity and initiative help bring these events to life, making the library an exciting place to visit.

Developing Leadership Skills: Serving as a Student Librarian isn't just about helping out, it's a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills. Student Librarians learn how to manage their time, take responsibility for important tasks, and work collaboratively with others. These experiences are invaluable as they prepare for future academic and professional challenges.

Promoting a Love of Reading and Learning: Perhaps the most important role of a Student Librarian is fostering a positive library culture. Through their passion for reading and learning, they inspire others to explore the library, try new genres, and discover the joy of reading. They are ambassadors of the library, helping to make it a vibrant and engaging space for everyone.



I am incredibly grateful for our current Student Librarians and the hard work they put in to make the library a better place for all.

We are now open to applications for new Student Librarians, if you're interested in joining the team, see Ms. Jawaid in the library and apply today!

Accelerated Reader®

Accelerated Reader & Quizzing: A Quick Guide

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps match you to books that suit your reading level and interests. Every book in the programme has a **Book Level (BL)** and a **Quiz** linked to it. Once you finish reading, you take a short online quiz to check your understanding.

How It Works:

- **Choose a Book** – Pick a book from the library that's within your AR level. Look out for AR stickers and labels on the shelves.
- **Read Your Book** – Enjoy reading at your own pace, either at home or during school.
- **Take a Quiz** – Log in to AR and take a quiz when you finish. Quizzes are usually 5–10 multiple-choice questions.
- **Track Your Progress** – Each quiz you complete adds to your word count, helps build your reading score, and earns points.



Why Quizzing Matters:

- Quizzes check how well you've understood what you've read.
- They help you choose your next book at the right level.
- They give you and your teachers a clear picture of your progress.
- They can boost your confidence and keep you motivated to read more.

Rewards & Recognition:

We want to celebrate your reading success! When you quiz successfully, you can earn:

- **Awards & Certificates** for reaching milestones in your reading journey.
- **Prizes & Special Rewards** for top quizzers each term.
- **ClassCharts Points** for every successful quiz, helping you climb the leaderboard.

Your reading doesn't just make you a better learner, it also earns you real rewards!

Tips for Success:

- Take your quiz **as soon as possible after finishing a book** to keep the story fresh in your mind.
- Be honest: only quiz on books you've actually read.
- Don't worry if you don't get full marks, quizzes are a tool to help you grow, not a test to fear.
- Aim to read a mix of fiction and non-fiction to broaden your reading experience.

Where to Quiz:

- In the library computers during breaks, lunch, or after school (except Fridays).
- At home by using our special school page and your username and password:

<https://ukhosted35.renlearn.co.uk/2234318>

Accelerated Reader is here to support you in becoming a stronger, more confident reader. Every quiz you take brings you one step closer to achieving your reading goals, **and maybe even to winning your next reward!**

Happy quizzing!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB
FRIDAYS IN THE LIBRARY
12:55 - 1:15