



Our Lady & St Bede  
Catholic Academy

# Reading Matters



# Hello!

Welcome to the First Edition of Our Library Newsletter – January 2025!

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the very first edition of our school library newsletter! As we step into 2025, we look forward to another year of inspiring stories, enriching discussions, and a love for reading that continues to grow. I am aiming to read 52 books this year—that works out to one book a week, check out what the Student Librarians and I are reading to inspire your next read!



This month, we're proud to share specially curated reading lists to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. These books offer powerful stories of resilience, history, and remembrance, helping us to reflect on the past and honour those affected. You'll also find our recommended reading lists for the New Year—whether you're looking for motivation, fresh perspectives, or a thrilling new adventure, we have something for everyone! We celebrated the magic of storytelling with a week dedicated to the wonder of tales old and new. Join us for storytelling sessions, themed book displays, and discussions about the importance of storytelling in cultures around the world.

We have an incredible lineup of events planned for the next few months, and we can't wait for you to be part of them.

Be sure to stop by the library to check out our displays, borrow a book (or two!), and participate in our exciting events. We can't wait to see you!

Wishing you a fantastic start to the year filled with great books and wonderful discoveries.

Happy Reading!

*Ms. Javaid*



# 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.*

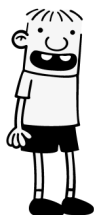
Books should be kept in good condition.

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



# Librarian's Recommendations

New year... new you? If you've set yourself a new resolution for 2025, check out some resolutions from popular book characters to inspire yours—and check out our recommended reads to help you reach your goal!



Stand up for myself more!

- Rowley Jefferson



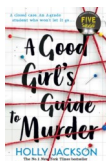
Learn my Geography!

- Dorothy Gale



Sleep more and drink less caffeine!

- Pippa Fitz - Amobi



Do magic tricks for fun not just to save the world

- Amari Peters



Stay gold.

- Ponyboy Curtis



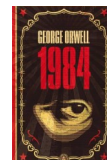
be gentle with my hugs!

- ROZ



NO MORE REBELLIOUS THOUGHTS.

- WINSTON SMITH



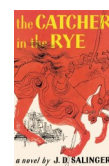
Stop ghosting Heathcliff. Literally.

- Catherine Earnshaw



Eat less mystery meats!

- Monkey D. Luffy



Keep it real.

- Holden Caulfield



Stop apologising for everything!

- Charlie Spring



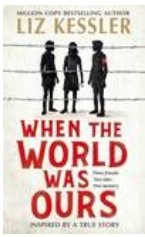
Floss every day!

- Jamie Raina Telegemeier



# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

## Librarian's Recommendations



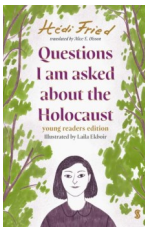
### **When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler**

Elsa, Max, and Leo are three friends who live in Vienna - but as Hitler's rise to power begins to cast a shadow over Europe, they find themselves torn in different directions.



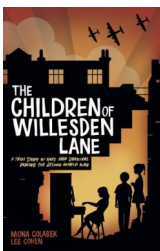
### **Maus by Art Spiegelman**

This is the complete story of Vladek Spiegelman and his wife, living and surviving in Hitler's Europe.



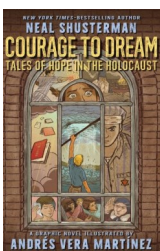
### **Questions I am asked about the Holocaust by H. Fried**

A Holocaust survivor answers questions that she is frequently asked during her school lectures on the Holocaust.



### **The Children of Willesden Lane by Mona Golabek**

A 14-year-old Jewish girl flees Nazi persecution in Vienna and rebuilds her life in London, based on the true story of Lisa Jura who was placed on the Kindertransport by her parents in World War II.



### **Courage to Dream by Neal Schusterman**

Introduces five interlocking narrative stories about the Holocaust, taking inspiration from Jewish folklore.



### **Signs of Survival by Renée G. Hartman**

The memoir of two Jewish sisters in Czechoslovakia, one deaf and one hearing, and their experience of the Holocaust and the concentration camps.



# Student Librarian's Recommendations

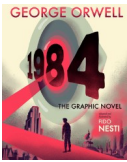
Books to honour voices of victims of Social Injustice and to learn for the future.



## **Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine**

Follows the attempts of the curator of the Holocaust museum in Tokyo to trace the history of a Jewish girl, whose suitcase is in the museum.

Step back and see what things were like through Hana's eyes.—Isabelle



## **1984 the Graphic Novel by George Orwell**

When Winston begins a secret relationship with his colleague Julia, he soon realises it's virtually impossible to escape the watchful eye of Big Brother

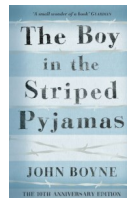
Really important book to think about our world in the present times.



## **The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank**

This book provides a deeply moving and unforgettable portrait of Anne Frank - most poignant true-life story to emerge from the Second World War.

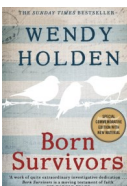
Shows the effect of the Holocaust on children, through the eyes of a young girl.—George



## **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne**

A German boy befriends a Jew in a concentration camp, without realising the significance of the facility

Heartbreaking story of the true horrors of the Holocaust.—Lauren



## **Born Survivors by Wendy Holden**

A heart-stopping account of how three mothers and their newborns fought to survive the Holocaust.

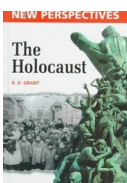
Intense and miraculous, this book shines a light on brave women.—Sophia



## **I Survived the Nazi Invasion by Georgia Ball**

In a Jewish ghetto, Max Rosen and his sister, Zena, struggle to live after their father is taken away by the Nazis

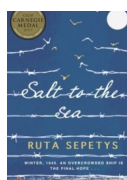
Vivid illustrations with historical facts in a sad story of survival.—Lauretta



## **The Holocaust (New Perspectives) by R. G. Grant**

Examines the early persecution of Jews in Germany, the rise to power of the Nazis, the concentration camps, and other historical events surrounding the Holocaust .

Includes graphic images and eye opening details of the events in the Holocaust.—Grace



## **Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys**

Set during the end of World War 2, a group of refugees escape Germany by ship

Highlights how people are personally affected by war and their struggles.—Aryanna



## **Signs of Survival by Renee G. Hartman**

The memoir of two Jewish sisters in Czechoslovakia, one deaf and one hearing, and their experience of the Holocaust and the concentration camps.

Full of hope.—Annie

# Student Librarians

The Student Librarians have been actively training newer members in essential library skills, including shelving books according to our system and organising materials efficiently. This training ensures that the library remains a well-structured and accessible resource for all students while enabling all Student Librarians to be familiar with our catalogue.

To further enhance their knowledge and ability to recommend books, Student Librarians have also been assigned monthly reading selections from various genres. This initiative encourages them to explore different literary styles and themes, equipping them with broader insights to help guide other pupils and library patrons in their reading choices.

The Student Librarians play a crucial role in maintaining a welcoming library environment.

They assist in shelving books, cataloguing new arrivals, and helping fellow pupils locate resources. Their responsibilities also include promoting a love of reading by organising book displays, recommending literature, and assisting in library events. Through their dedication, Student Librarians contribute to a vibrant reading culture within the school.

Recruitment for new Student Librarians will begin in March, with applications open to Year 7 pupils who are passionate about reading and eager to encourage others to explore books.

The selection process will include a written application where candidates express their interest in the role and a formal interview to assess their suitability.

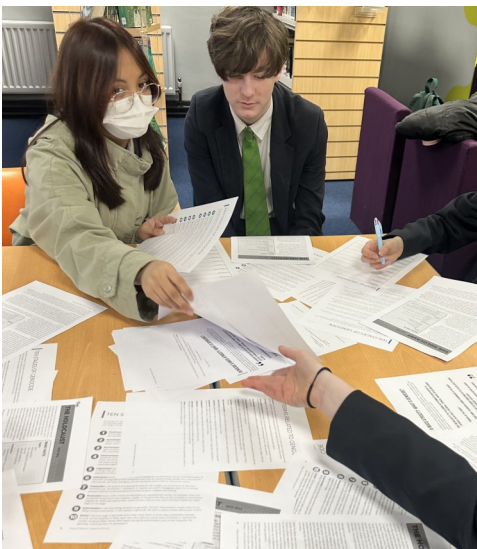
This initiative ensures that the library remains a dynamic and engaging space for all students, with enthusiastic new members joining to support their peers in their literary journeys.

Please see Ms. Jawaid if you have any questions or to express interest.

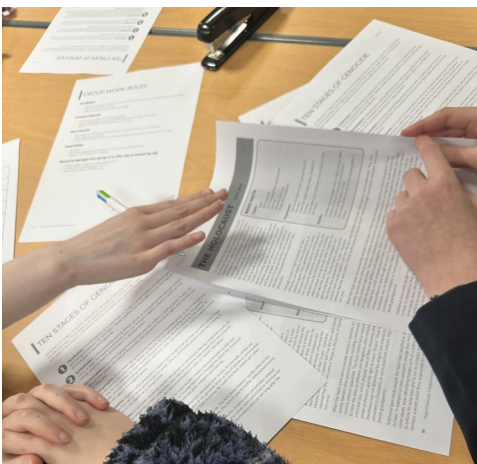


# Library events

In preparation for Multicultural Day, the Multicultural Club has been actively conducting research in the school library, gathering information about diverse cultures, traditions, and histories. The club aims to create an engaging and educational event that highlights the richness of cultural diversity within the school community. Members have been exploring various sources to learn about different cultural practices, traditional cuisines, and significant historical contributions of various ethnic groups. Their research will help shape the activities and presentations for Multicultural Day, ensuring an inclusive and informative experience for all pupils.



The Social Justice Club has been focusing on the study and discussion of the ten stages of genocide, a framework developed by Dr Gregory Stanton to identify and understand the progression of genocidal actions. In observance of Holocaust Memorial Day, the club has examined how these stages applied to the Holocaust, fostering a deeper understanding of historical atrocities and their lasting impact.



The discussions have extended beyond historical events, addressing the current situation in Gaza and the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Pupils have debated the humanitarian implications, international law, and the global response to ongoing conflicts. The Social Justice Club has provided a platform for students to engage in critical conversations, drawing parallels between historical events and contemporary issues while advocating for awareness and justice.

Through research, dialogue, and active engagement, both clubs continue to foster a culture of learning and social responsibility within the school community

