



Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS



Hello!

It's been a fantastic year in the library. From our MP visit, where pupils in our Social Justice club spoke to our local MP Matt Vickers to the vibrant Culture Day Festival celebrating the diversity of our school community, and our cosy Christmas Book Flood inspired by Iceland's Jólabókaflóð – the library has been a hub of activity, creativity, and curiosity. Thank you to everyone who took part, made recommendations, helped run events, or simply popped in to find their next read.



To help you make the most of the summer, we've curated Summer Reading Lists for all age groups, packed with adventure, mystery, fantasy, and more. Whether you're an avid reader or just getting started, there's something here for you.

Reading regularly over the holidays is a powerful way to avoid the summer slide – just 20 minutes a day can help you stay sharp and ready for the new term.

Here are a few ideas to keep you reading this summer:

- Set a goal – Decide how many books you'd like to read by September and track your progress.
- Try a new genre – Break out of your usual choices. You might discover something brilliant.
- Join a book club – Local libraries often run summer clubs and reading challenges.
- Visit the library – Drop into your nearest branch for free books, events, and inspiration.
- Read aloud – To a sibling, a pet, or even a teddy bear. It all counts and builds confidence.

Thank you for being part of our library community this year. It's been a joy to see so many of you exploring new books, sharing recommendations, and making the space your own.

We can't wait to welcome you back in September for more reading, discovery, and exciting events. Have a brilliant summer filled with great books and unforgettable stories

Happy reading,

Mr. Jawaid



Librarian's Recommendations

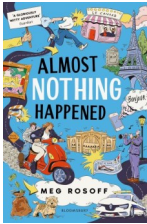
Check out these hot summer reads!



Super Fake Love Song by David Yoon

A seventeen-year-old lies about being in a band to impress a very cool girl, but he finds it harder and harder to live up to the inevitable expectations

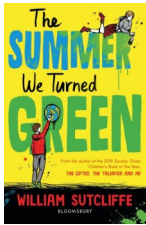
A light hearted rom-com infused with deep social themes such as race, class, identity and relationships.



Almost Nothing Happened by Meg Rosoff

This is the tale of 48 chaotic and unforgettable hours in the heat of the scorching Parisian sun.

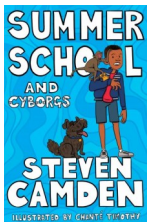
Perfect escapism. It's reflective, spontaneous and amusing.



The Summer we turned Green by William Sutcliffe

A family becomes unwittingly involved with protesters when a runway extension is planned on their street

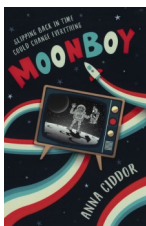
Fun story with a great cast of characters, underlying humour, and some serious environmental messages.



Summer School and Cyborgs by Steve Camden

When Danny and Dom have to bail, Jay is left facing the long holiday alone, until he meets his new mysterious neighbour.

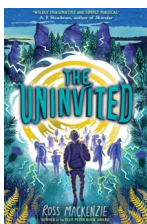
Sensitive, inspiring book.



Moonboy by Anna Cidor

When a boy named Keith appears in Letty's room and claims she's in his, she's stunned — and even more so when she discovers she can travel through time!

Strange ,heartfelt tale about friendship, identity, and finding light in unexpected places



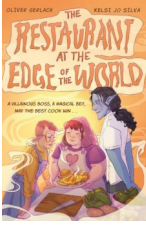
The Uninvited by Ross MacKenzie

When the Faerie folk flee their world and come to ours, running from the nightmare of war, they are locked away in a refugee camp.

A sophisticated and intelligent read with strong characters and a strong plot. It's harrowing in places, but thought provoking.

Student Librarians' Recommendations

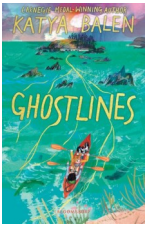
Try these picks from our wonderful Student Librarians for your next beach read!



The Restaurant at the Edge of the World by Oliver Gerlach.

Seventeen-year-old Soup must battle her evil boss in a fantastical cooking competition to win the restaurant she calls home.

A graphic novel as warm as the sun beaming down on you. The illustrations are beautiful and truly bring the story to life.—Sophia



Ghostlines by Katya Balen

A girl discovers new depths to her quiet island life while trying to help a new boy explore a supposedly haunted nearby island.

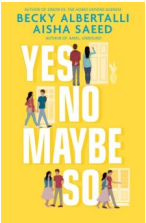
Perfect for summer. I loved the writing and the atmosphere. I also enjoyed that it had a bit of suspense but not too much.—Lauren



Ready or Not by Andi Porretta

An anxious teen hopes that a summer of adventure and offbeat dares will keep her friend group together after graduation.

I love the story of tackling changes in friend. I also love the art. Overall, a nice read.—Ellie



Yes No Maybe So by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed

Two childhood friends become reacquainted and fall in love whilst working on a local election campaign.

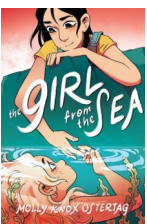
A peaceful, romantic story. —Isabelle



A Season for Scandal by Laura Wood

When Marigold Bloom's family business falters, a run-in with the bad-tempered Oliver Lockhart draws her into the Aviary—a secret agency of women who blackmail troublesome men.

A must read! It is the second in the series. An adventure book, shows woman can overthrow the patriarchy and make things right. I love it.—Annie



The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Osterlag

Fifteen-year-old Morgan is rescued by a shape-shifting selkie named Keltie, who appears in human guise to proclaim her love for her.

A heart rending story that is perfect read if you are searching for a touching and poignant tale.



Library Events 2024-2025

We had a number of fabulous library events of the 2024-2025 school year. Check out these great photos that briefly encapsulate the treasured memories we created.



Summer Reading

Beat the Summer Slide

Did you know students can lose reading skills over the summer if they don't keep up the habit? Just 20 minutes of reading a day can make a huge difference in keeping your brain active and ready for the next school year. It's one of the easiest (and most enjoyable) ways to stay sharp while still enjoying your break.

Switch Up Your Formats

Reading doesn't have to mean sitting down with a paperback. Audiobooks are great for listening while walking, tidying your room, or even before bed. E-books make it easy to read anytime, anywhere. Mixing formats keeps things fresh and fits around your life.

Always Have a Book with You

Keep a book (or your phone/e-reader) in your bag or pocket. You'll be amazed how many pages you can read while waiting for a friend, on a bus ride, or during a quiet moment at lunch.

Set a Simple Daily Goal

Try reading for 20 minutes every day—that's all it takes to keep your reading skills strong. Whether it's one chapter or a few pages, a little every day adds up fast and helps build a reading habit that sticks.

Try Different Types of Books

Graphic novels, short stories, fantasy epics, non-fiction, funny reads—try it all. You don't need to read only long or serious books.

Create a Reading Spot

Find a quiet, comfy place to read. Good lighting, a cosy blanket, and limited distractions can make it easier to enjoy your book and help your brain switch into reading mode.

Use the Rule of 50

If you're not enjoying a book after about 50 pages (or a few chapters), it's okay to move on. Not every book will be your thing, and that's fine. Reading should be enjoyable—not a struggle.

Make Time to Read

Add reading into your daily routine like you would any other hobby. Ten minutes before bed, a chapter after lunch or whatever works for you. When you make time, you'll be surprised how much you can read.

Falling Behind? Don't Stress.

Some days you'll read loads, other days not so much. That's completely normal. Your reading challenge is personal so go at your own pace and enjoy the journey.

Celebrate Every Book You Finish

Every finished book is a win, whether it's your first or your fiftieth. Be proud of what you read and let your reading choices reflect who you are.

