



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

# READING MATTERS



# Hello!

# 2024

Greetings avid readers!

As your librarian, I extend a warm welcome to the first edition of Reading Matters in 2024.

Get ready to explore the vast realms of literature, embark on literary adventures, and uncover hidden gems within our collection.

As we embark on a new year, we look forward to all of the new books we will be reading. This year we're hosting exciting reading challenges with fabulous prizes, organising events for enriching discussions, and ensuring there are more opportunities to enhance your reading experience.

Join us in the library as we dive into a world of captivating stories, literary discoveries, and thought-provoking discussions. We hope the pages of this newsletter will be your gateway to a year filled with the magic of words and the joy of reading.

Happy reading,

*Ms. Jawaid*



# Reading Tips

In 2024, the best resolution we can all have is to read more. Here is a guide to help you with becoming the best reader you can be this year... and forever!

Habit experts will tell you that the easier you make it to do something, the more you will do it. Place a book right by where you'll be reading (bedside table, couch, in your backpack), so you don't have to think about picking up a book.

Reading regularly is key. Set aside a specific time each day for reading, we're privileged to have DEAR time during the school day, so it's important to take advantage and read for 20 minutes. Consistency is key to improving reading skills.

Choosing interesting books may seem like an obvious suggestion, but it requires reflection and introspection. If you know yourself and what you're into, you can find books that you enjoy and that match your reading level and interests.

Practice active reading by using Reciprocal Reading strategies. Engage with the text by asking questions, making predictions, and visualizing what you're reading. This helps improve comprehension and retention.

Expand your vocabulary as you discover new words. Keep a dictionary handy to look up unfamiliar words. Make it a habit to learn a few new words each day and try to use them in your conversations.

Set reading goals by challenging yourself to read a certain number of books or pages within a specific timeframe. Setting goals helps track your progress and keeps you motivated.

Explore different genres like fiction, non-fiction, mystery, fantasy, etc., to broaden your reading experience. Don't limit yourself to one type of book. Keep track of the books you've read, including the titles, authors, and dates. This allows you to reflect on your reading habits and set new goals.

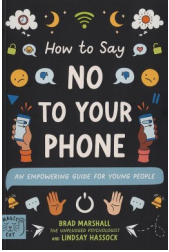
Practise reading aloud to improve fluency and pronunciation. You can also take turns reading with a friend or family member to make it more fun. Remember, reading is a skill that improves with practice, so don't get discouraged if it feels challenging at first. Keep at it, and you'll become a better reader over time! Talk about the books you're reading with friends, family members, or classmates. Sharing your thoughts and opinions can deepen your understanding of the material.

And of course, visit the library. Take advantage of your school library to discover new books and resources. You can always ask me or any one of our great Student Librarians to offer recommendations based on your interests.



# Librarian's Recommendations

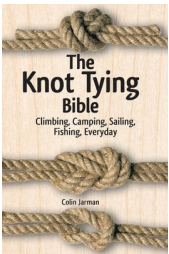
New year... new you? If you've set yourself a new resolution for 2024, we've got a book to support you in your goal! Check out my personal recommendations below.



## **How to Say No to your Phone by Brad Marshall**

An empowering and practical guide to help people unplug from their phones.

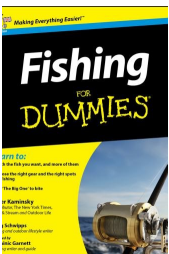
**Thoughtful, enlightening book that will challenge the reader to assess their relationship with technology. Essential for teens and adults alike.**



## **The Knot Tying Bible by Collin Jarman**

A full colour step-by-step guide to tying more than seventy of the most useful and dependable knots used in climbing, camping, sailing, fishing and other everyday activities.

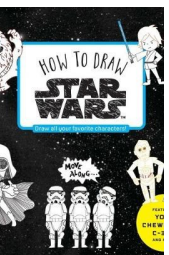
**I love to learn new skills, and this book covers a whole bunch!**



## **Fishing for Dummies by Greg Schwipps**

Provides you with a thorough introduction to all types of fishing - sea fishing, game fishing, and coarse fishing.

**I found the details about selecting the correct rod very helpful.**



## **How to Draw Star Wars by Corekiyo**

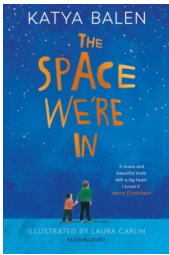
A guide to drawing characters from the Star Wars franchise in various styles.

**A fun guide for fans of drawing!**



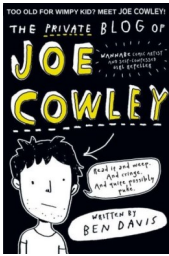
# Student Librarians' Recommendations

This month, our Student Librarians share something a little different for you to try.



## **The Space We're In** by Katya Balen

A young boy struggles to help his autistic brother when their mother becomes ill. **A relatable story to start the new year.**—Lauren



## **The Private Blog of Joe Crowley** by Ben Davis

A teenage boy decides to start a blog about his daily life as he pursues his goal of getting his first kiss.

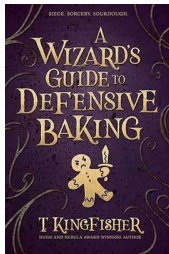
**An older version of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'.**—Hayden



## **The Love Report** by Beka and Maya

Join the girls on their quest to uncover the mysteries of love and friendship.

**This is a story that shows all relationships are complex and unique.**—Sophia



## **A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking** by T. Kingfisher

Mona isn't like the wizards charged with defending the city. She can't control lightning or speak to water. Her familiar is a sourdough starter and her magic only works on bread. But Mona's life is turned upside down when she finds a dead body on the bakery floor. **It's good.**—Henry



## **Fangirl: The Manga Vol 1** by Sam Maggs and Rainbow Rowell

The manga adaptation of the beloved novel featuring all-new scenes by Rainbow Rowell.

A teen girl blossoms and learns to be a person in her own right when she and her more dominant twin sister go to university

**A sweet story with a hint of angst that will melt your heart.**—Aryanna



## **Delicates** by Brenna Thummler

Marjorie Glatt's life hasn't been the same ever since she discovered a group of ghosts hiding in her family's laundromat.

**Something very unique and paranormal to read in the new year.**—Phoebe

# Student Librarian News



Librarians have been learning to catalogue our collection, they are also working to meet their Student Librarian targets. This is the second half of our training scheme for the year and we are rapidly gaining confidence in our duties.

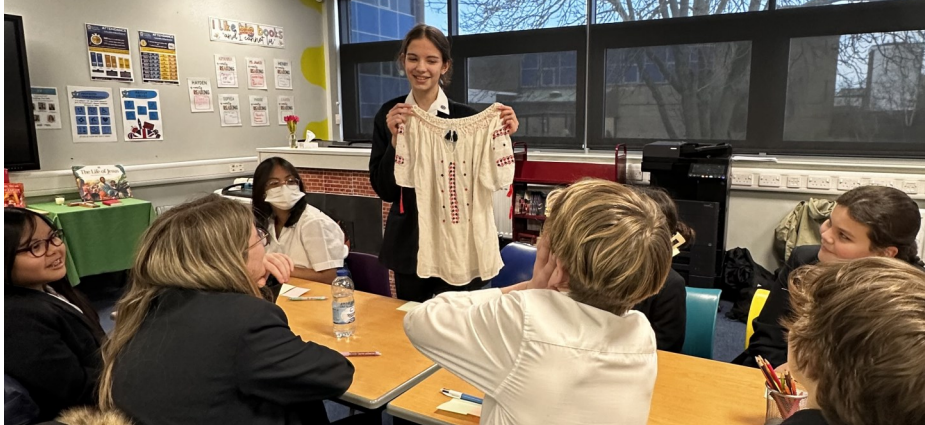
Applications for the our new batch of Student Librarians went out and we look forward to reviewing them find the next additions to our dynamic team. Successful applicants will be invited to an interview and trial with our current Student Librarian leaders.

It is a privilege—a responsibility—that our team do not take lightly, and one that they continue to embrace with humility, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to fostering a culture of literacy and learning within our school community.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my Student Librarians. Together, we continue to celebrate the transformative power of literature, to inspire a lifelong love of reading, and to create a brighter, more enlightened future for generations to come.

# Library Events

## Multi Culture Club



Our Multi-Culture Club offers a platform for dialogue, learning, and celebration. We believe that by embracing our differences and celebrating our shared humanity, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate world for all. Through our collective efforts, we strive to promote cultural awareness, foster intercultural understanding, and cultivate a sense of global citizenship.

This month, our members have been sharing significant aspects of different cultures that are significant to them. Through sharing these artefacts, we were able to discover similarities in all of the different backgrounds we represent.

Sophia told us all about her Romanian cultural dress, a top that was hand embroidered by her grandmother. The colour red represents peace. She also showed us jewellery which is a token of affection given by a boy to a girl.



We celebrated Dr Martin Luther King JR Day in the library by listening to his famously inspiring speech: *'I have a Dream'*. We then discussed the significance of his words. We concluded the event by writing out our own dreams for ourselves and for the world.





**Multi Culture Club**

**Mondays**

**in the library**

**12:55 - 1:10 PM**