



OUR LADY & ST. BEDE  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

READING

MATTERS



# Hello!

## SPRING INTO READING

As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers, and luckily our library stacks are absolutely blooming! May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are highlighting books that offer a poignant look at how internal and external factors affect our mindset.

This month we added over 200 new books to our catalogue, and that's just the beginning. Our focus has been on reinvigorating our Non Fiction collection with the latest releases on everything from Maths (yes, there are fun books about Maths!) to Cookbooks (because who doesn't love to get creative in the kitchen?).

Whatever your interests are—do you want to know more about training your dog or do you want to know how to stave off exam anxiety—we have something for everyone. From leisure reads to curriculum support, our Non Fiction section is ready for you to explore.



And if you can't find what you're looking for, please let me know. I will endeavour, as always, to accommodate your needs.

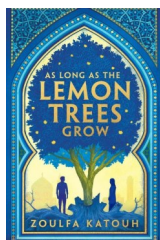
Happy Reading,

*Ms. Jawaid*



# Librarian's Recommendations

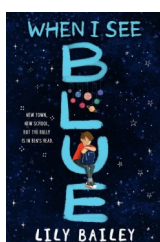
For some of us, talking about mental health and mental illness is hard. But we are stronger together, and one of the most empowering things about speaking up is the knowledge that you are not alone, no matter how you may feel otherwise. With that in mind, here are some books about mental and mental illness to remind you that you're not alone.



As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow

By Zoulfa Katouh

18-year-old Salama Kassab, works as a doctor and surgeon in a makeshift hospital in Homs during the Syrian civil war struggles balancing duty to her country and to herself.



When I see Blue

By Lily Bailey

A boy struggling with OCD, starts at a new at school and learns to cope with the help of friendship and understanding.



Girl in Pieces

By Kathleen Glasgow

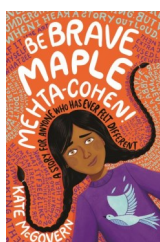
A deeply moving portrait of a girl in a world that owes her nothing, and has taken so much, and the journey she undergoes to put herself back together. Kathleen Glasgow's debut is heartbreakingly real and unflinchingly honest. It's a story you won't be able to look away from.



And the Stars were Burning Brightly

By Danielle Jawando

Set in Manchester, 15-year-old Nathan and his friend Megan start investigating the reasons for his older brother Al's suicide, only to uncover an intense campaign of bullying. .



Be Brave, Maple Mehta-Cohen!

By Kate McGovern

Maple, a girl with dyslexia, hides the fact that she can't read, until her Year 5 teacher figures it out.

(Turn to page 6 for a sneak peak into the book!)

# Student Librarians' Recommendations

Here are some of Student Librarians' picks of novels that tackle mental health.



Wonder

By R. J. Palacio

*Inspires the reader to be strong when you feel "not good-enough" - Lauren*

August was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

*Deals with racism and standing up to stereotypes. - Aryanna*



Zachary Young and the Dragon Emperor

By Xiran Jay Zhao

Zachary Ying never had many opportunities to learn about his Chinese heritage. His single mom was busy enough making sure they got by, and his schools never taught anything except Western history and myths. So Zack is woefully unprepared when he discovers he was born to host the spirit of the First Emperor of China for a vital mission.

*A story of facing a mental health diagnosis and inner struggles. - Phoebe*



Are We All Lemmings and Snowflakes?

By Holly Bourne

Welcome to Camp Reset, a summer camp with a difference. A place offering a shot at "normality" for Olive, a girl on the edge, and for the new friends she never expected to make – who each have their own reasons for being there. Luckily Olive has a plan to solve all their problems. But how do you fix the world when you can't fix yourself?

*Gives good insight into the aftermath of an assault. - Vania*



The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

By Louise Finch

Spence and Anthony have been friends for years, but it's only when he witnesses a classmate die in what looks like a tragic accident at a house party that a flicker in the fabric of time helps Spence 'see' Anthony for the first time.

When Spence wakes up to the same day again and sees Clara, the girl who died, alive and well, it's clear he's been granted a second chance. And a third. And a fourth...Caught in a loop, condemned to experience the same 24 hours over and over, Spence tries to prevent the terrible events of the party.

*Focuses on how to face death and overcome. - Sophia*



All that's Left in the World

By Erik J Brown

When Andrew stumbles upon Jamie's house, he has nothing left to lose. A deadly pathogen has killed off most of the world's population, including everyone both boys have ever loved. And if this new world has taught them anything, it's to be scared of what other desperate people will do . . . so why does it seem so easy for them to trust each other?...



# Library Events

Year 11s have found a quiet space to revise in between exams. The library is open before school every morning from 8 to 8:20 and after school, Monday –Thursday from 3:20 to 4. Special consideration is also given to pupils wanting to study quietly during the school day when the library is open. All hours are posted on our doors.



Our Carnegie Medal Shadowers are getting ready to vote for their favourite book from the Carnegie short list. While opinion remains somewhat divided, there are still a few books that are very strong contenders. Our voting will take place on the 6th of June. Until then we will be watching author interviews, holding discussions, and pushing our personal favourite as the one to win.

We will be considering the plot, themes, characterisations, style as well as our own personal opinion about the books.

Watching interviews where the shortlisted authors talk about their work by visiting the book pages.

These provide fantastic insights into their creative processes which can inspire our young readers to explore their own writing and illustration pursuits.

Pupils also got to learn all about the judging process, by getting a special behind-the-scenes look.

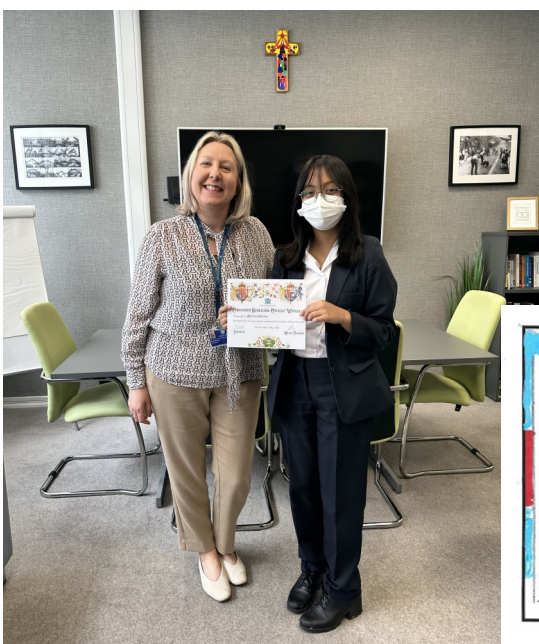
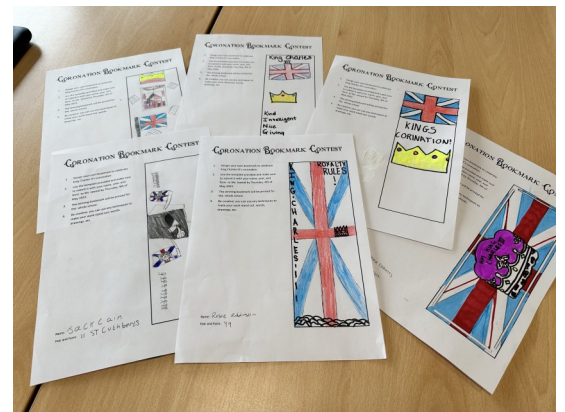


# Library Events

The coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday, May 6th 2023. In a coronation ceremony, the monarch is dressed in 'regalia' (the emblems or insignia of royalty), including a crown, sceptre and orb. The coronation marks the beginning of a monarch's reign.

The British coronation ceremony includes the anointing of the monarch with holy oil and the crowning with the St. Edward's Crown. To learn more about the monarchy, drop by the library and check out all of the books we have about royalty—fact and fiction!

In addition to adding books about our new King to our catalogue, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, the library held a special contest: creating a bookmark to commemorate the event. Pupils submitted their designs and the winner was chosen by our esteemed Head Teacher, Mrs Wilkinson, as well as Mrs Shields and myself.



The winning bookmark, designed by Aryanna C in Y8 will be shared. Every pupil will receive this unique souvenir to mark the occasion.





NEW

Be Brave, Maple Mehta-Cohen!  
A Story for Anyone Who Has Ever Felt Different  
By Kate McGovern

Maple Mehta-Cohen has a secret: she can't read very well. Words on the page just don't make sense. Despite all her clever tricks to hide her troubles with reading, her teacher is on to her, and now she has to repeat a whole year of school. But on her first day back, Maple tells a lie about why she's there - a lie that soon spirals out of control...



Will Maple find the courage to tell the truth before someone gets hurt? And can she find a way to love herself and her brain, just the way she is?

Readers who have faced their own trials with school and friendships will enjoy this heart-warming story and its bright, creative heroine. Check out this excerpt to get a taste and check the book out of the library to read more.

SNEAK

PEEK

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As I make my way to class, I scan the halls for Aislinn and Marigold, trying not to look desperate. They're nowhere to be seen. Not that this is a surprise; the sixth-grade classrooms are on the third floor, and we're on the second floor. The girls are probably over my head right now, flouncing into their new classroom with their new sixth-grade outfits, forgetting all about me.

"Goooooood morning!" Ms Littleton-Chan stands by the open door to Room 226, greeting my new classmates just a little too enthusiastically as they flow into the classroom ahead of me. When I get there, she gives me what I can only describe as a concerned frown-smile, but then she brushes it aside. "Ah, the famous Maple Mehta-Cohen. Welcome back! How was your summer, my friend?"

I shrug. I think back to those aimless

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mornings at the pool with Marigold and Aislinn, getting there bright and early so we could stake out the best deck chairs closest to the snack bar. My stomach contorts with an involuntary (and unwelcome) pang. "Fine, thanks. How was yours?"

"It was great. We went hiking in the Grand Canyon. It was *amazing*." She drags out the word *amazing*, like giving it extra vowels makes it that much more convincing. "Ever been?"

I shake my head. "Was it hot?"

"So hot. OMG. Like, forty degrees."

I shudder. Sounds horrible. I'd like to see the Grand Canyon, but only in the winter. I feel similarly about visiting Dad's grandparents, his ba and bapuji, in India, which he says "we have to do before they die". I'd like to meet my great-grandparents and see the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, the "Pink City", and all that, sure. But not in the summer, thank you very much. I require constant access to air conditioning when it gets over twenty-five degrees.


I take a breath and step inside my same old classroom. They offered to let me switch

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# Accelerated Reader®

## Taking an Accelerated Reader Quiz

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

**1** Choose a book within your ZPD 

**2** Read your book 

**3** Search for the quiz 

**4** Take the quiz 

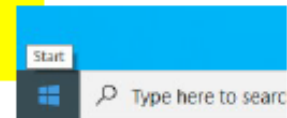
**5** Write your score down in your Reading Record

Reading Books Are Compulsory Equipment  
If you need a reading book, please see your English teacher or the librarian, Ms Jawaid.

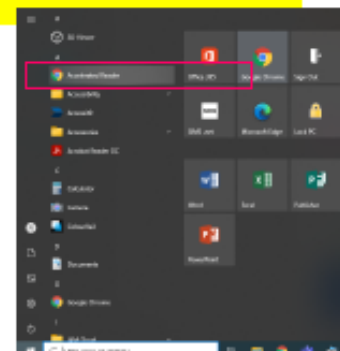
At school:

Login to a computer.

Go to Start Menu.



Click on "Accelerated Reader".



At home:

Login to a computer.

Open the internet browser.

Use our school's unique URL to go to our Accelerated Reader page.

Login as a student.



Choose Accelerated Reader to **quiz** on a book or check your bookshelf.

