

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE 01/03/25

LIBRARY NEWS

Our second newsletter bids you a very warm welcome back after the half-term break. February saw the end of a short but busy half-term with the final session in our first **Reading Leader programme**. A massive well done to our Year 7 participants and a huge thank you to our wonderful Reading Leaders. March will welcome a new cohort of Reading Leaders and Reading Partners and our exciting **World Book Day Celebrations** await you – please visit link =>



Happy International Book Giving Day is celebrated on 14th February and is a wonderful opportunity to give books and share a love of reading. We celebrated this event all week.

Our first recipients were **Charlotte** and **Alba** in **Year 7**, who were nominated by History and their Head of Year for their excellent commitment to their studies.

In Year 8, **Olivia** and **Daria** are the proud recipients of books from their Head of Year and RE.

Our **year 9** nominees were **Zoe** and **Mahdiya** who were delighted to receive books from Maths and Computing.

Our **Year 10** students were thrilled to receive the most nominations across the school. **Ozzy, Eva, Mia, Ava, Nidhi, Hannah, Chinecherem** and **Enemchukwu** received their books with nominations from Classics, Business Studies, Economics, PE, Technology, French and Science.

Our **Year 11** students **Elizabeth, Lucy, Tiana, Shirley, Erin, Isla** and **Fiyin** were the deserving recipients, nominated by Dance, English, Drama, Music, Graphics, Textiles and Head of Year.

And last but not least, **Rosie** and **Jack** were our **year 12/13** book recipients with nominations from art and SLT. Enjoy your merited gifts.

In the library we hosted Blind date with a Book for Years 10-13 and Book Island for the Years 7-9. Winner of the Book Island Competition is **Hephzibah (Yr 9R)**.

Please click on the link to see a photo gallery of our IBDG celebrations.

[IBGD gallery.docx](#)

READING LIST LINKS

Year 7 Fiction [Year 7 Reading ListUPDATED.docx](#)
Year 8 Fiction [Year 8 Reading ListUPDATED.docx](#)
Year 9 Fiction [Year 9 Reading List UPDATED.docx](#)
KS3 Non-Fiction [KS3 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)
Year 10/11 Fiction [YRS 10&11 READING LISTS.docx](#)
KS4 Non-Fiction [KS4 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)
Year 12/13 Fiction [KS5 FICTION Reading List.docx](#)
KS5 Non-Fiction [KS5 Reading List - NON fiction.docx](#)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Lent – March 6th – April 17th 2025

[Lenten Promise Reading log.docx](#)

World Book Day – 6th March 2025

[MC Grammar in the Library-Intro.docx](#)

International Women's Day – 8th March 2025

British Science Week 7th – 16th March 2025

World Storytelling Day – 20th March 2025

Carnegie Children's Book Awards– Mar – June 2025

WORD

MILLIONAIRE

Congratulations to Chimamanda Ebede 7A)

– our first Word Millionaire

Having read 1 million words so far since September, we knew a Book token would be the ideal gift!

Who wants to be a Word Millionaire next?

Keep on reading!



**MOST
IMPROVED
READER**

Congratulations to Sofia Isabelle (7H) who received a book token for increasing her reading age by 4 years! We use the AR reading programme to encourage our young people to read, grow and build confidence with books. Sofia also attends our Coram Reading Leader sessions where she is partnered with one of our year 9 students, **Maja Slowikowska**. Well done to Maja too for her hard work as a Reading Leader.

BOOK REVIEW

When you buy a physical book from [lovereadings4kids](https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/), 25% of the cover price will be given to our school.

Buy something for our library from the Year of Hope wish list! Gift a book today. <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

ACE OF SPADES by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Book review by Assumpta Ononogba, (Yr 9 Reading Leader)

I picked up ACE OF SPADES because I needed something to read, and I rarely find books that are written by people of colour and have people of colour as their main characters. HOWEVER, from the very first page, I was hooked on the book's interesting plot and dynamics. It follows our two main characters, Chiamaka and Devon who are the only Black students attending Niveus Academy. Even though they have the same skin colour, they couldn't be any more different. Chiamaka Adebayo is no-nonsense, cut-throat and wealthy. With her mum being Nigerian and her dad Italian, she has grown up to realise that racial discrimination is something she'll always have to fight no matter how much money she has. She decides to take her own life into her hands to get the respect she deserves. She makes a lot of sacrifices, some bad, some good and believes the end justifies the means and because of all this she's a survivor and even an elitist in her school. Devon on the other hand, is so sweet, vulnerable, and does everything he can to make his mother proud, basically the opposite of Chiamaka. Until Aces shows up and things go a bit crazy. The mystery itself revolves round unmasking Aces. I won't say too much so as not to give away spoilers, but I'll just say that no one saw that ending coming! I had a few guesses, and they were all wrong!

This book changed how I viewed the wider world around me, and the injustices that still go on around the globe. I couldn't have imagined it in a million years. It's dark, twisted but yet informative at the same time. It deals with issues such as racism, classism, homophobia, and it honestly took me on a rollercoaster of emotions. It also shows how, despite how far humans have come, we will always have issues like this, and that we should always remember that such injustices happen all around us, every day. Sometimes quietly, sometimes loudly. **I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for wider reading, and it is available in the St. Bernard's library.**

CHINESE CINDERELLA by Adeline Yen Mah

Book review by Chimamanda Ebe (Yr 7 Reading Leader Scholar & Word Millionaire)

This is a narrative of the secret story of an unwanted daughter growing up in China. Her mother died after giving birth and her family thinks of her as being bad luck. Her father remarries a beautiful half-French woman, known as Niang ("old fashioned form of "mother" in Mandarin) who stays at home to look after the children. She treats her stepchildren harshly, especially Adeline, whilst spoiling her own children with luxuries. The book is Adeline's struggle to find a place where she belongs, as she lacks love from her parents. She finds solace from her relationship with her grandfather YeYe and Aunt Babu before Niang puts a stop to it. Adeline puts her all into academic achievement to try and gain admiration from her family and is always top of the class.

I found this book very moving and felt like crying in the parts where Adeline was treated so badly. In the parts where she was happy, I felt content and proud of her. Adeline's fight through life is very inspirational and after she found light through the darkness it helps me know I can achieve anything. Everybody can.

A book of hope - Remember that when things look dark there is always someone or something to bring light into your life. Enjoy!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND US A REVIEW OF A BOOK YOU HAVE ENJOYED AND YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.
SHARING THE LOVE OF BOOKS



INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF [The Gift of a Book 2025 - Staff picks](#)

A Man Called Ove is life-changing because it shows how even the grumpiest, closed-off people have a reason for being the way they are. Ove starts off as this rude, mean old man but as you learn about his past and see him slowly open up to the people around him, you realise how important it is to surround yourself with people who love you. The book makes you look at your own life and relationships—how small acts of kindness and patience can make a huge difference in others' lives, but also how it can help you. It's a reminder that no one's really alone in their struggles, and sometimes the people who seem the most distant and mean are just waiting for someone to reach out and be kind. It's not just a story about Ove; it's about how all of us can change and grow and look after others better.

By Ms Donnell

Little Girls in Pretty Boxes: The Making and Breaking of Elite Gymnasts and Figure Skaters details the difficult training regimens endured by young girls in competitive sports such as gymnastics and figure skating. It is written using interviews with over 100 former gymnasts and figure skaters as well as trainers, sports psychologists and physiologists.

Growing up playing a lot of sports and loving the Olympic Games, this is the first book that I read and found fascinating. Until this point, I was not very interested in reading, but this led me to read many sports biographies and sports history books. Today, I still enjoy biographies from a range of people from different backgrounds.

By Ms Evans