

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE OCT 25

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back after the summer!

After the recent mammoth task of relocating our school library, we are finally settled into our new location in the St Helen's Centre. A wide range of books and comfy reading chairs await you, and desk space provides a calm working environment. A limited number of laptops are also available to use in the library.

If you haven't paid us a visit yet, please feel free to pop in for a browse at your leisure. If you cannot find the book you want to read on the shelf, please ask one of us and if we hold it in stock we can reserve the next available copy for you. If we do not hold it in stock, please ask for it to be added to our order wish-list.

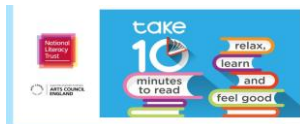
What will the new school year bring us?

First, a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students. Most of you are already familiar with the new library space through your fortnightly library lessons. These lessons are designed to increase quality reading time, exchange book reviews and improve comprehension skills with the Accelerated Reader programme. Our year 7 students are enrolled into AR and have had a reading target set in their accounts for the term. Parents/Carers will have received an email about Home Connect, a way for you to see how they are doing with their reading quizzes. Students can quiz at home or in school and they are asked to share a book review with their class.

Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen, a review written by Toluwani Beecroft (7H)

"Have you ever read a book with a happy beginning but is dark all the way to the end? Well, if not then you're missing out on 24K gold. In the depths of London lives an average boy called Ade living his best life. That is, until a deadly infectious plant starts spreading throughout the apartments, leaving him and his family and friends all alone to save themselves. I found this book emotional and thrilling with a touch of science-fiction about it and it will also leave you asking questions at the end of each chapter. If you like cliff-hangers this is the story for you. I rate this book 9/10."

To celebrate **World Mental Health Day** on October 10, we encouraged students to escape and to take 10 minutes out to read. Reading can help you relax, boost your mood and escape elsewhere. If you cannot find the book you want to read on the shelf, please ask one of us and if we hold it in stock we can reserve the next available copy for you. If we do not hold it in stock, please ask for it to be added to our order wish-list.



Your library team awaits you!

Mrs Bloomfield is there to help you in the library on a Monday, Tues and Wednesday.

Mrs Grant is there to help you in the library on a Thursday and Friday.



LIBRARY RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening hours: 8.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Laptops must be signed in and out by the librarian and will be on a timed session during busy periods.

No food and drink in the library.

Coats and bags must be placed tidily in our storage cupboard before entering.

Noise levels must be kept to a minimum.

Please respect other users and their personal possessions and books.

No congregating in groups outside the library.

No shoes on chairs.

Overdue books will be subject to behaviour points and lost books will incur a charge on parent pay.

The number of times a book can be renewed will be limited if the book has been reserved by another user or it is a tutor read or revision guide.

Clubs and Interventions

After half term, we will be launching our successful

Reading Leader programme, whereby a group of year 7 students are partnered up with Year 9 students to explore the skills of reading further.

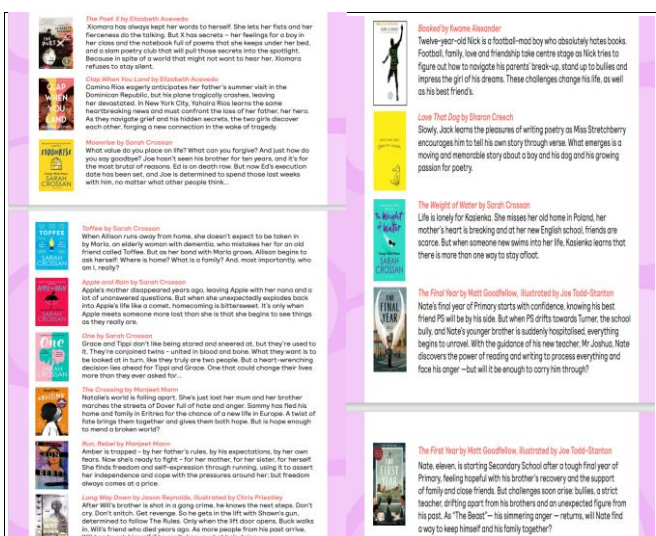
Reading Champions is also being introduced after half term: so watch this space for this more

library 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/>

Book Clubs for **Year 9 & 10** and **Year 7** will be starting after half term, please sign up in the library. Year 7 is on Tuesday morning at 8.15 and Year 9 & 10 will be Tuesday lunchtime.



Verse novels offer a unique blend of poetry and storytelling – explore this powerful form this Autumn. The challenge celebrates reading for pleasure and helps build confidence with an accessible and engaging format as well as fostering an interest in a diverse range of books.



If you are in Years 7 – 9 and are interested in taking part in this exciting new challenge, please come and speak to one of us. See above for some of the verse novel titles available in our library. Entries received will be rewarded and you may win a generous book donation for the school library.



Spooktacular titles for some haunting half-term reading

Whether reading for pleasure or for wider reading for a favourite subject, we have something for everybody.

[Year 8 Reading List UPDATED.docx](#)

[Year 9 Reading List UPDATED.docx](#)

[KS3 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)

[YRS 10&11 READING LISTS.docx](#)

[KS4 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)

[KS5 Reading List - NON fiction.docx](#)

Year 7 reading list is in the process of being updated to ensure our latest titles are added.

National Non-fiction November

This year's topic is "Past Puzzles and Timeless Treasures".

Below subject departments give their recommended titles for further wider reading:

Geography: Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

Politics: This Land by Owen Jones

50 Political ideas you really need to know by Ben Dupre

Computing: Girls who code: Learn to code and change the world by Reshma Saujani

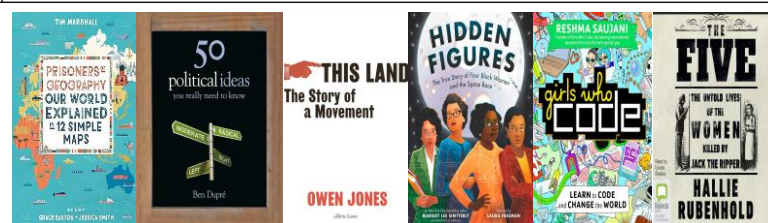
Science: Hidden figures by Margot Lee Shetterley

History: The Five by Hallie Rubenhold

Maths: Alex's adventures in Numberland by Alex Bellow

Drama: National Theatre: All about theatre

RE: The God delusion by Richard Dawkins



OCTOBER LITERACY HIGHLIGHTS

Read freely during **BANNED BOOKS WEEK OCT 5 – 11 2025:**

A week to celebrate the books that have been challenged, removed or silenced, and to stand with the people who write, sell and share them.



Seeds of change
make a difference
with your library

Monday 27 October – Sunday 2 November 2025

Celebrating libraries with a focus on the climate and sustainability. We encourage you to begin planning your green activities for your communities.