



# CNCS Library Newsletter



Autumn Term - 2025-2026 / Issue 2



It has been another busy half term with the run up to Christmas. Year 7 and 8 have settled very well in their fortnightly library lessons and Post-16 students, particularly Year 12 have been amazing in their commitment and dedication to their studies in the library's silent and independent environment. There have been quite a few competition winners so please read on to find out which of those students have won. The library has also received a visit from Matt 'Poet with Punch' Windle who held workshops throughout the day with Year 7 and Christmas was also celebrated in the library with Christmas trees and decorations up. It has been an amazing start to the new academic year!

Mrs McLachlan (Library Manager)



Last term the library launched its new reading incentive which was rolled out to our new Year 7 students.

When a member of staff sees a student reading for pleasure, in other words reading out of class, they were handed a 'Catch Me Reading' slip.

The student then hands this into the library for the chance of winning a £20 voucher at the end of the term.

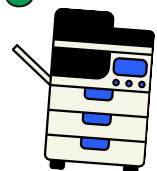
I am very happy to announce the library's first 'Catch Me Reading' winner is Maximilian M well done and congratulations! I am also happy to announce that the competition has been rolled out to all year groups including Post-16 – the very best of luck everyone and happy reading!

## Library Facilities

Fiction/non-fiction books  
 Revision Guides - GCSE / A'Level  
 Photocopier / Printer  
 Computers  
 Reading Corner  
 Magazines  
 Newspapers  
 Titles in French, Spanish, Tamil, Romanian and Polish.  
 Reading Overlays  
 Diversity Section

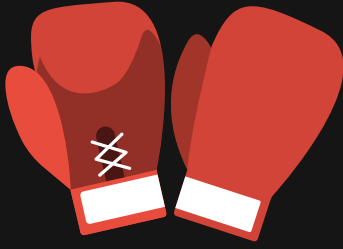


Post-16 University Prospectuses and Apprenticeship Information.  
 Designated tables at social times for reading, homework and games.  
 Graphic Novels  
 Manga  
 Comics  
 Library Noticeboard  
 Stationery Shop  
 Dyslexia Titles  
 Mental Health & Wellbeing Titles



Please see what is available in the Library Stationery Shop - just come to the main desk for any enquiries or purchases.

# MATT 'POET WITH PUNCH' WINDLE



An amazing day was had by Year 7 as a popular visitor and friend of the school, Matt Windle, paid his annual visit to speak to students. Matt, also known as 'Poet with Punch', is a Commonwealth boxing champion as well as having held the Poet Laureate of Birmingham title. Matt combines his two passions, poetry and boxing, to engage and inspire young people and is a regular visitor to CNCS. He spoke to the students about his two passions and the origins of these passions. He also spoke to students about the importance of Anti-Bullying and how this would be explored using poetry during four workshops that would take place in the library. Students engaged well, especially when Matt used a freestyle poetry technique that meant he could rhyme students' names into his poetry. It was a wonderful day for Year 7, and we are incredibly proud of the amazing poems they created and their engagement in the day.

# STUDENT LIBRARIAN CHRISTMAS MEETING 2025

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December the library held its Student Librarian end of term meeting. This was an opportunity to chat about how the term has gone, what improvements could be made and what has gone well. It was a celebration and in recognition of all the hard work and commitment that the librarians have demonstrated across the entire Autumn term. Always turning up on time, being professional, helpful and reliable. I am so proud of the librarians, how they have grown as individuals but also how well they work together as a team. They have been and continue to be amazing. To celebrate hot chocolate was on hand as well as some sweet yummies and Christmas rewards. Well done all!

Mrs McLachlan



# Book Facts!

One of the highest selling books in the world is 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens, selling approximately 200 million copies. Roughly 80 million more than 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'.

## RECOMMENDED READING SPRING TERM 2.1

EXPAND  
YOUR MIND,  
READ A  
BOOK

Year 7 'Dogman: The Scarlet Shedder' – Dav Pilkey

Year 8 'Scarlett & Ivy' – Sophie Cleverly

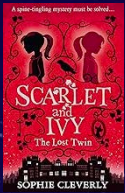
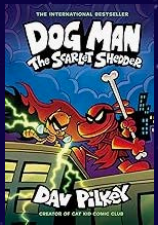
Year 9 'The Scorpion Queen' – Mina Fears

Year 10 'A Tempest of Tea' – Hafsa Faizal

Year 11 'Firebourne' – Rosaria Munda

Post 16 'Fahrenheit 451' – Ray Bradbury

'Dogman: The Scarlet Shedder' is the twelfth instalment in Dav Pilkey's beloved Dog Man series. In this graphic novel, Dog Man faces challenges after being sprayed by a skunk, resulting in a permanent scarlet red colour. He is exiled from the community, leading to a series of misunderstandings and chaos. Meanwhile, Petey, a cat who initially posed as a villain, reluctantly returns to help Dog Man. The story introduces a new villain, Dr. Scum, who creates robots to take Dog Man's place in jail. The narrative explores themes of exclusion, redemption, and the impact of societal judgment, making it a thought-provoking read for fans of all ages.



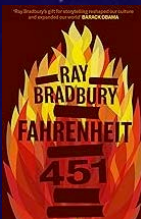
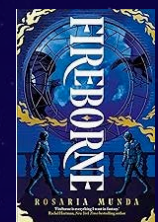
'Scarlett and Ivy' follows twin sisters Scarlett and Ivy Grey. When Scarlett disappears from their boarding school, Rookwood, Ivy is sent to secretly take her place. While pretending to be her sister, Ivy uncovers hidden diary pages and dark secrets, and tries to discover what really happened to Scarlett. The story is a spooky mystery about bravery, identity, and uncovering the truth.

'The Scorpion Queen' follows Amie, a sixteen-year-old girl whose life is turned upside down when she's framed for a crime she didn't commit and disowned by her family. Stripped of her status, she's forced to serve Princess Mariama in the imperial palace of Timbuktu, where the emperor has set cruel, deadly trials for any man seeking Mariama's hand in marriage – trials that have already killed many suitors. As Amie becomes closer to Mariama and learns more about the palace's politics and dangers, she must decide whether to flee with her childhood love or help the princess end the brutal trials and forge her own destiny.



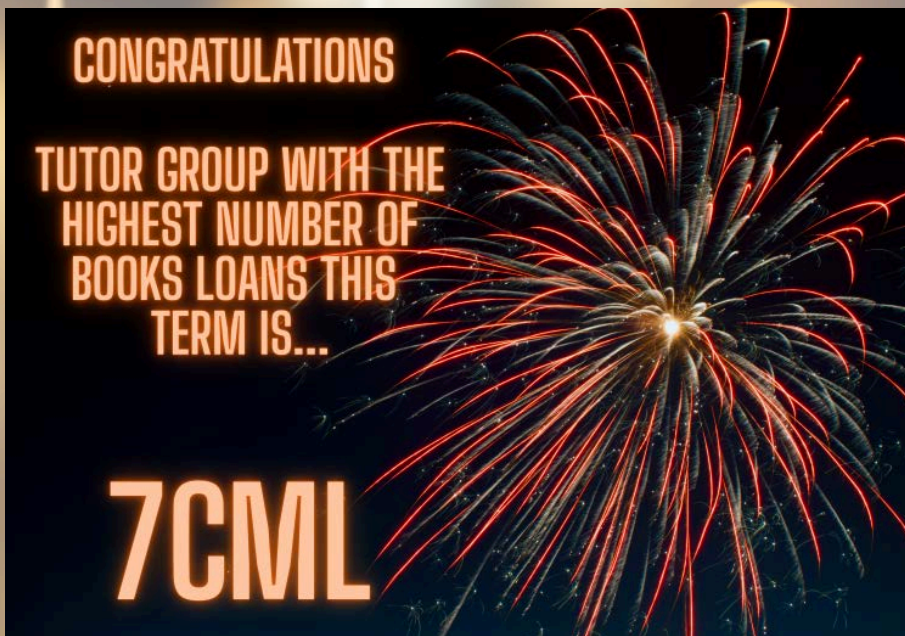
Archie Casimir runs a classy tearoom by day that becomes a secret bloodhouse for vampires by night. When her business and community are threatened, she must team up with unlikely allies to pull off a dangerous heist into the elite vampire society – revealing deeper conspiracies and testing loyalties along the way.

After a revolution changes their world, two orphaned friends, Annie and Lee, train to become dragonriders in a fledgling regime. Now rivals for leadership of the dragon fleet, they must face rising threats from remnants of the old order – and decide what matters most: power, friendship, or love – as war looms and dragons take flight.



In a dystopian future where books are banned and "firemen" burn them, firefighter Guy Montag begins to question society's rules after meeting a free-thinking young woman and witnessing the emptiness of his own life. As he secretly reads books and rebels, Montag's world changes forever in this classic story about censorship, knowledge, and resistance.

# COMPETITION WINNERS



# A world of reading awaits you. Have you tried the CNCS SORA Reading App yet?

## Getting started with **Sora**



With SORA, you can get free ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and more. Follow the instructions to get started.

# 1

Install the SORA app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store or go to [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com).

# 2

In SORA, find our school, Cardinal Newman Catholic School, then sign in with your school login.

# 3

Browse the **EXPLORE** tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

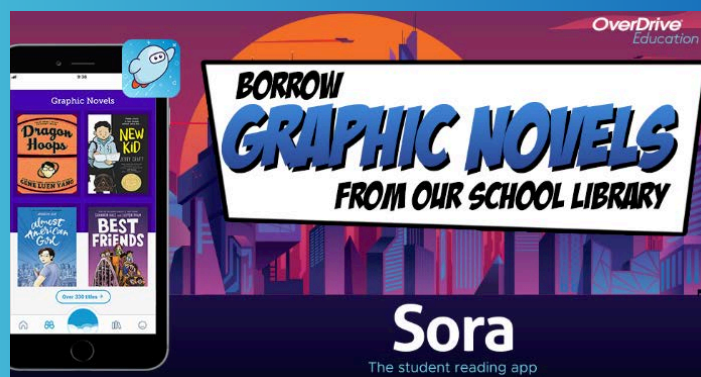
# 4

Close the book and go to your **SHELF** to see all your books.

From there you can:

Tap **OPEN BOOK** to read your book.

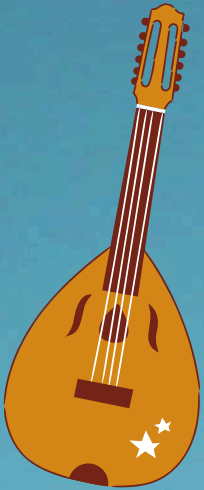
Tap **OPTIONS** to renew or return your book or to get your notes and highlights plus more.



# MY FAVOURITE BOOK - CNCS STAFF

Each issue of the Library Newsletter a staff member will tell us what their favourite book is and why. Mrs Minshull from our PE department, has very kindly shared the book she has most enjoyed.

## *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* - Louis de Bernieres

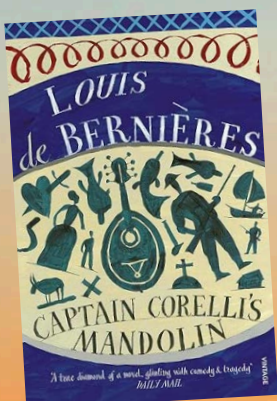


My favourite book in the world is 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' by Louis de Bernieres.

I read it years ago, when I first started teaching. I said I was disillusioned with my selection of books recently. I just couldn't get excited by anything I was reading. A colleague told me about this book. He said I'd HATE it at first, but I MUST stick with it, it was going to be worth it.

He brought the book into school one day. I did as he suggested. I can't tell you how much I wanted to just give up. It was a difficult read. But then..... I couldn't put it down. It's the best book I've ever read, especially because of the journey it took me on.

I was excited when the film came out, but it wasn't a patch on the book.



17+

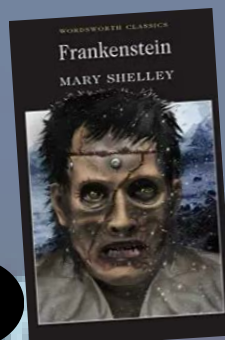


# BOOKS TO FILM/TV

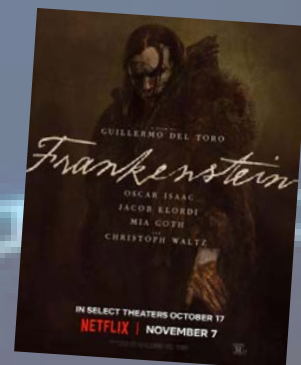


'Frankenstein' is a novel by Mary Shelley about a scientist named Victor Frankenstein. Victor becomes obsessed with science and discovers how to create life. He builds a creature from dead body parts and brings it to life.

However, Victor is frightened by the creature's appearance and abandons it. The creature is left alone and is treated badly by everyone it meets because it looks different. Although it wants friendship, it becomes angry and seeks revenge on Victor.



14+



16+

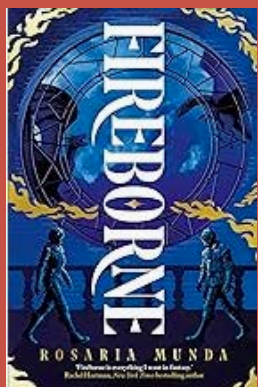
The creature kills several people close to Victor and demands that Victor make him a companion. Victor begins to do this but changes his mind and destroys the second creature. In revenge, the creature ruins Victor's life.

The story ends with Victor chasing the creature to the Arctic, where Victor dies. The creature shows regret for what he has done and disappears.

The film can be seen on Netflix.

## Student Book Recommendation

An epic, dragon-riding fantasy set in a world not even a decade after a violent revolution. This story is a breath of fresh air for young adult fiction, as it delves into the intricate politics of a classist society that has now become a meritocracy. I love how the author depicts both governmental systems as well as highlighting how easy it is to fall again into the same cycle of violence. This is at heart a political fantasy with dragon riders that dissect cycles of violence and revolution. I think there are no better characters than Annie and Lee to explore that. Munda's depiction of grief, anger and betrayal, and, above all that, love, is masterful. I would highly recommend for anyone looking for fantasy that deals with heavy and very relevant themes.



# PUZZLES AND MISCELLANEOUS



## RIDDLE

*I burst with joy when I arrive,  
brightening skies as the old year  
dies. What am I?*

**First 2 students to the library  
with the correct answer  
receive a sweetie treat! - Last issue's answer  
(PIANO)**



**Contributors to this  
issue are:  
Mrs Minshull,  
Thamizhini J (Year 13) &  
Mrs McLachlan.**