



CNCS Library Newsletter



Spring Term 2.1 - 2025-2026 / Issue 3

NEWS

Happy New Year to all students and their families!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the New Year festivities! The new year has begun with regular library lessons for Year 7 and 8, new books arriving in the library and a visit from the poet Emilie Lauren Jones who was once Coventry's Poet Laureate.

There are numerous competition winners to celebrate as well as preparations for World Book Day on Thursday 5th March 2026. To celebrate the National Year of Reading staff are continuing to look out for any students who are reading for pleasure and giving them a slip to enter the competition for a chance of winning a twenty pound voucher at the end of the Spring term - Good Luck everyone and happy reading!
Mrs McLachlan (Library Manager)

Emilie Lauren Jones

Emilie Lauren Jones made her annual visit to CNCS to demonstrate how poetry is accessible to everyone. During 5 workshops she provided students with the skills to create their own poetry centred around the themes of Anti-Bullying and Mental Health and Wellbeing. Students taking part enjoyed sharing ideas and exploring words to describe their ideas around these subjects. We are so proud of how they conducted themselves and how they developed their ideas to create such amazing poems - well done everyone! Read on to see some of the poems created.

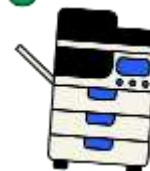


Library Facilities

- 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.

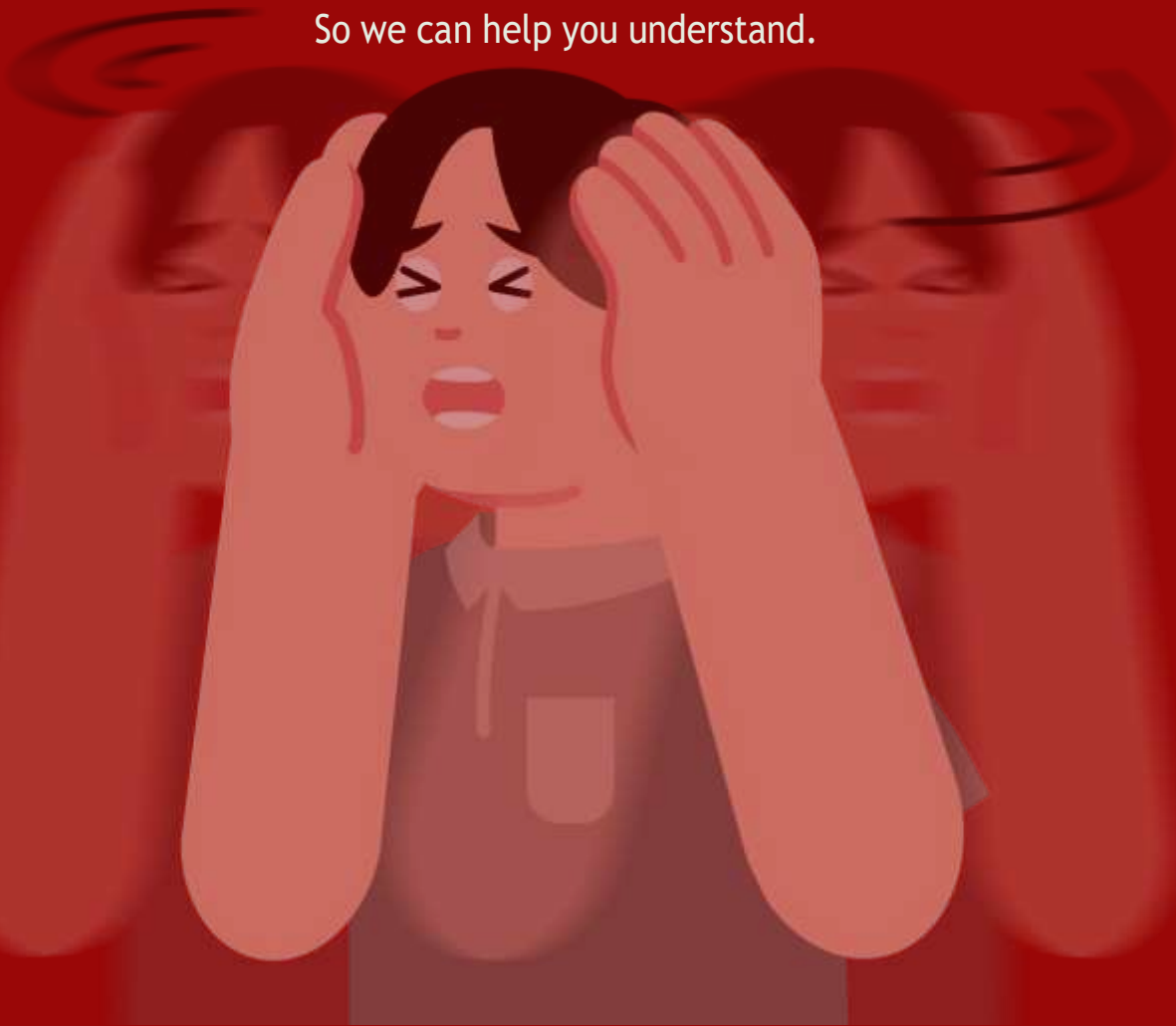
I Don't Understand

Isla-Mae J (Year 8)

You can't sit with us
I don't understand
You can't be in here
I don't understand
You have to sit at the back
You don't understand.

We'd welcome you
But your skin is different
You have to leave
Or else I'll leave
We are the same
You are different.

I don't understand
It isn't personal
But you have to leave
So we can help you understand.



It's Not You

It's not you
But you probably can't read.
We don't have anyone to help you
You have to leave
But don't worry it's not you.

It's not you
But you smell like you haven't showered in weeks.
People can't stand the smell
You can't be here
But don't worry it's not you.

It's not you
But you can't afford the clothes here
We can't let you stay
But don't worry, it's not you.

Morire A (Year 8)





By Myself

They think I'm trouble
They told me to leave
They didn't tell me why
They told me not to worry
They told me not to cry.

I left the place
They continued on
I looked back at them
Not one look, not even one
They said to each other
"It's just how things be"
But others can join
But not me?

I don't know the cause
I suddenly pause
They say "Go somewhere else!"
Guess I'd be better off by myself.

Sergio K (Year 8)

Complaining To Us

Don't complain to us
When your pay is lower
It isn't our fault
You were born slower.

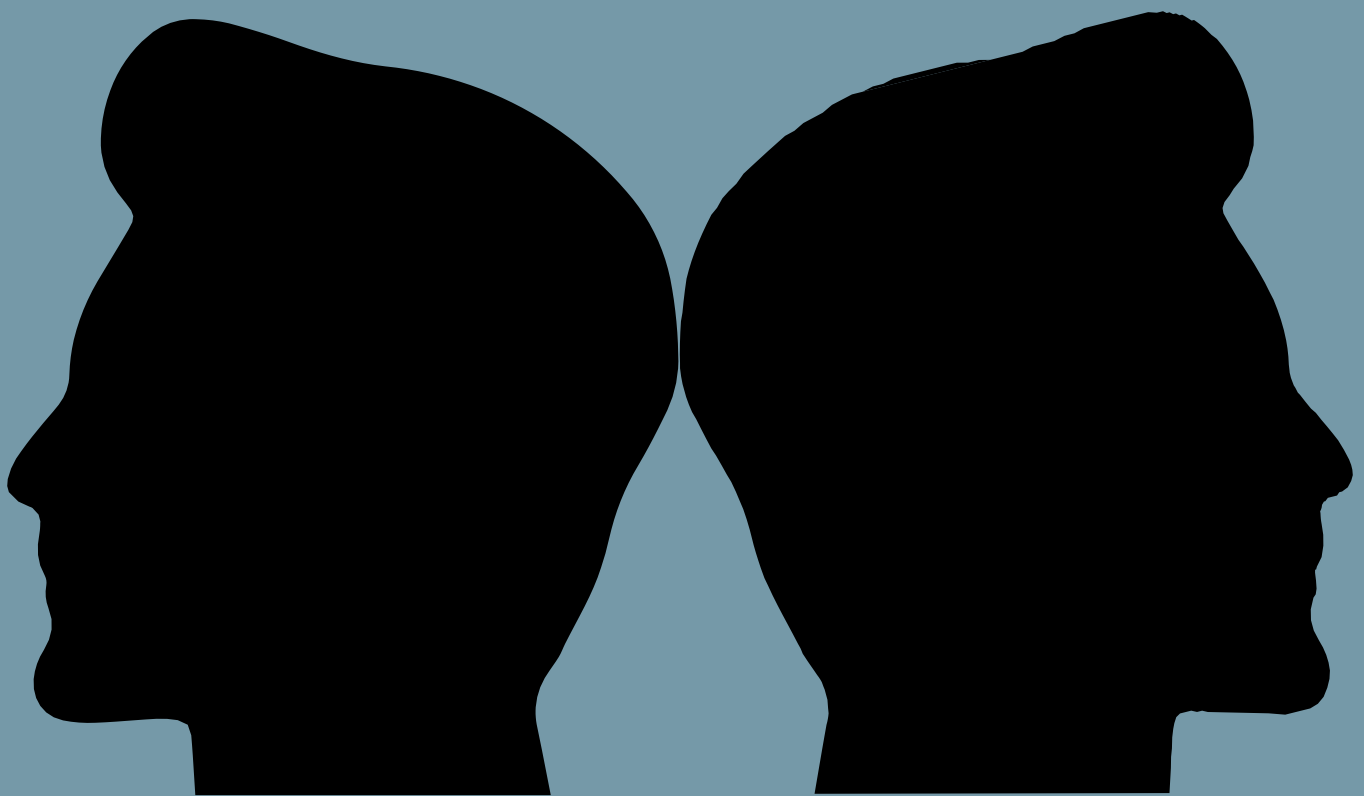
Our company is fit for others
Not people like you
Who complain to us
No matter what we do.

Your co-workers are paid more
For working harder
All you do is complain to us
For paying them higher.

You complain to us, and
Ask us why
Just look in the mirror
You're just a woman
That's why their pay checks are bigger.



Grace H (Year 8)



You

The internet is a scary place,
Tons of different images being thrown in your face
But what they don't want you to know,
Is it's all fake.

They don't show you their bad hair days,
They only show you what lies at bay.
Filters on filters,
No one is ever perfect.

Bitter comments to help you get over,
The fact you'll never be like them.
Don't show your weak,
Don't show your insecure
Don't admit that you're impure,
You are just like every sad teen.

You're not fat, not too skinny
You're YOU, and that's what matters!

Shay R (Year 8)

YOU

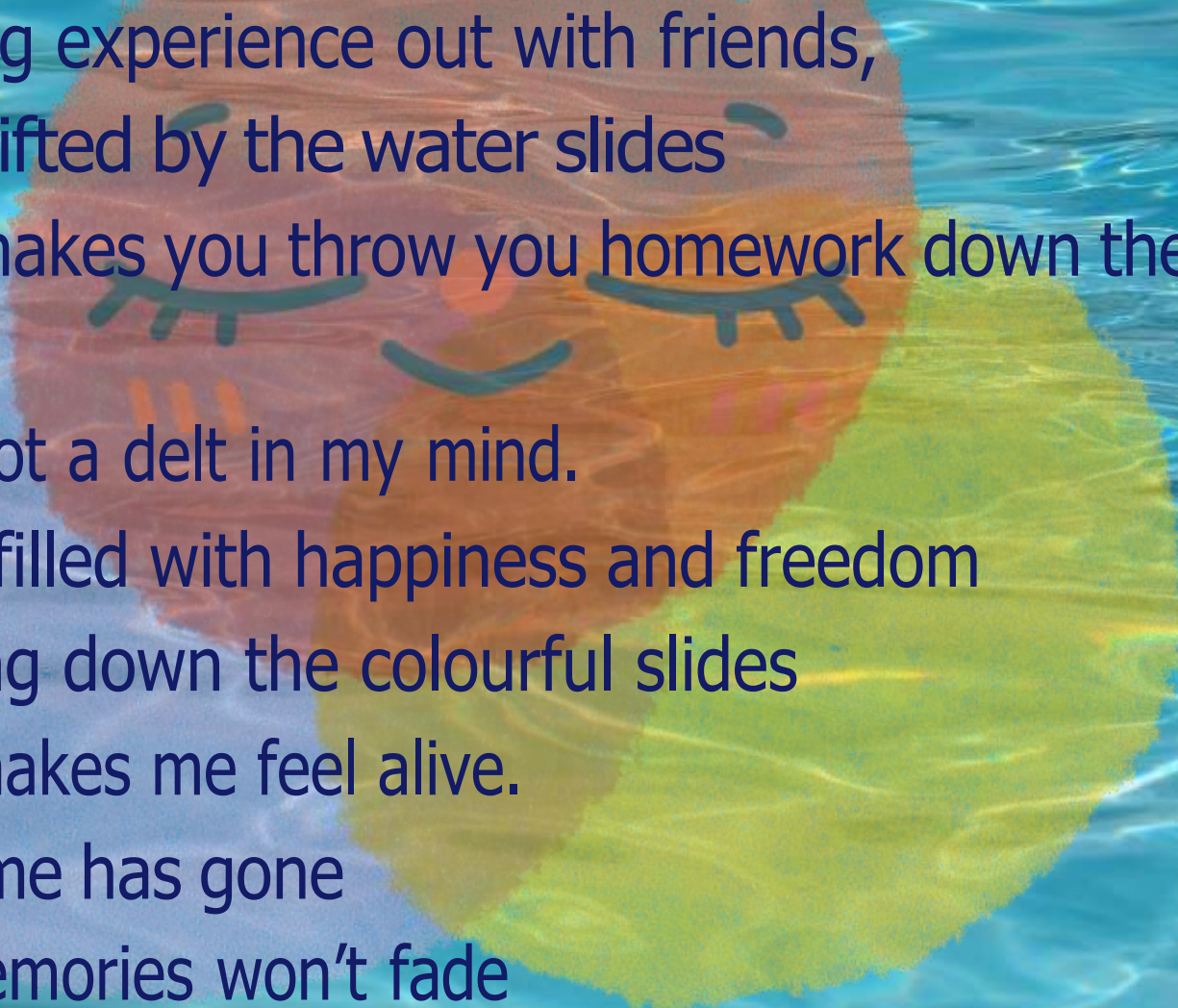
MATTER



Birthday

If my birthday was every day
On a nice Spring day with a warm breeze
I would be so attached to the sunlight
That I would just eat them crispy.
Chicken Nuggets on the nice breezy grass
Onto this aqua and white sky
Went to my favourite food place that
Was like having a five star
Meal in the finest restaurant.
Then I go home and go
Into the hot steaming bath
And then relax and listen
To the birds chirping and
Gaze into a deep sleep
I wish today was every day!

Wave of Happiness!

A large, stylized sun with a smiling face is the central focus. The sun is rendered in shades of orange and yellow, with a simple black outline for its eyes and a curved line for its mouth. It is set against a background of blue water with white ripples, suggesting a pool or a beach. The sun's face is partially obscured by the water ripples, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Exciting experience out with friends,
So uplifted by the water slides
That makes you throw your homework down the
slide
With not a care in my mind.
A day filled with happiness and freedom
Rushing down the colourful slides
That makes me feel alive.
The time has gone
But memories won't fade
I would always keep this feeling safe.

Sienna H (Year 8)

Benched

My manager benched me,
I shushed him and silenced him
First, he messaged my mum
Saying that I should be benched.
Then for some reason
He benched me.
I said “Yo, sub me on bro”.
He said no.

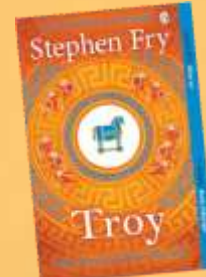
Half time
No goals
I hadn't played a minute.

Second half,
He subbed me on,
Two minutes later
I scored!
We won 2-5 against Bedworth.
He never messaged my mum again after that.
And that is how I silenced my manager.

Jamail M (Year 8)



RECOMMENDED READING - SPRING TERM 2.2



Rugby Academy – Tom Palmer

A group of talented young players train at a top rugby academy, balancing school life with intense competition. They face pressure, personal challenges, and tough matches as they work together to succeed.

Themes: teamwork, resilience, leadership, friendship, perseverance.

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks – Katie Kirby

Lottie is starting secondary school, and everything feels awkward — friendships, crushes, and growing up. Told in a funny diary style, it's full of relatable and embarrassing moments.

Themes: friendship, self-confidence, growing up, finding where you belong.

Silver – Olivia Levez

Silver isn't human — she's been sent on a mission to observe Earth. But when she begins to develop real emotions and falls for a boy named Finch, she must choose between her mission and her heart.

Themes: identity, what it means to be human, belonging, love and sacrifice.

Simply AI – DK

An easy-to-understand guide to artificial intelligence. It explains how AI works, where we see it in everyday life, and how it could shape the future.

Themes: technology and society, innovation, ethics of AI, the future of work.

Troy – Stephen Fry

A dramatic retelling of the Trojan War, where heroes like Achilles and Hector battle after Paris takes Helen of Troy. Gods interfere, tempers flare, and pride leads to tragedy.

Themes: fate vs free will, heroism, pride, war, love and betrayal.

Ghosted – Emily Barr

Ariel meets Joe and feels an instant connection — then he suddenly disappears. When she later sees him again, he acts like they've never met. As Ariel searches for answers, she uncovers a much darker truth.

Themes: love and obsession, trust, deception, identity, the reality of modern dating.



YEAR 7

YEAR 8

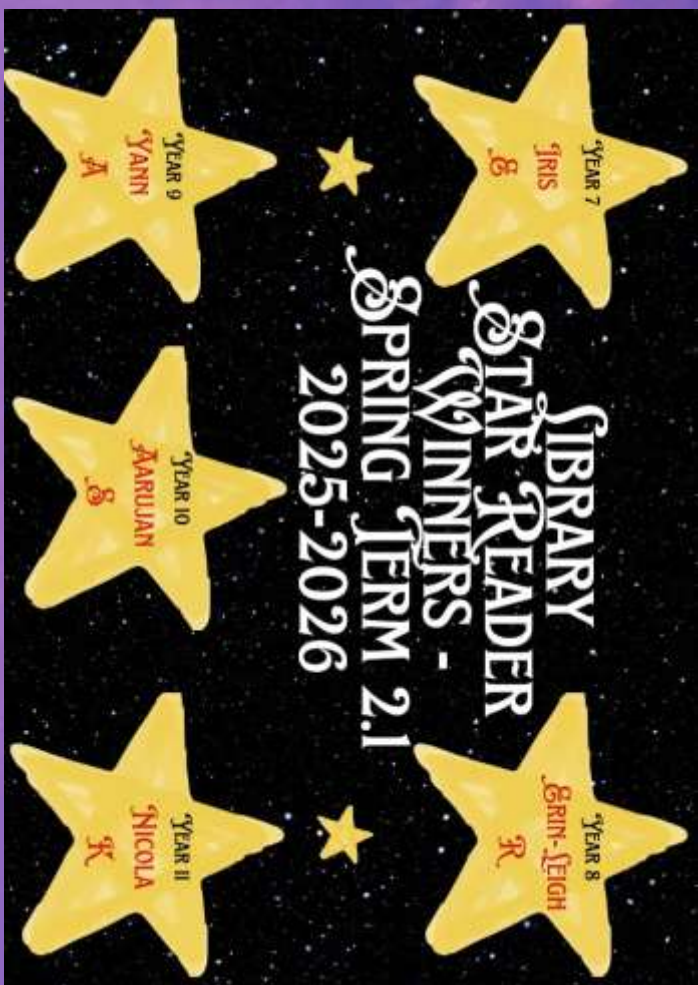
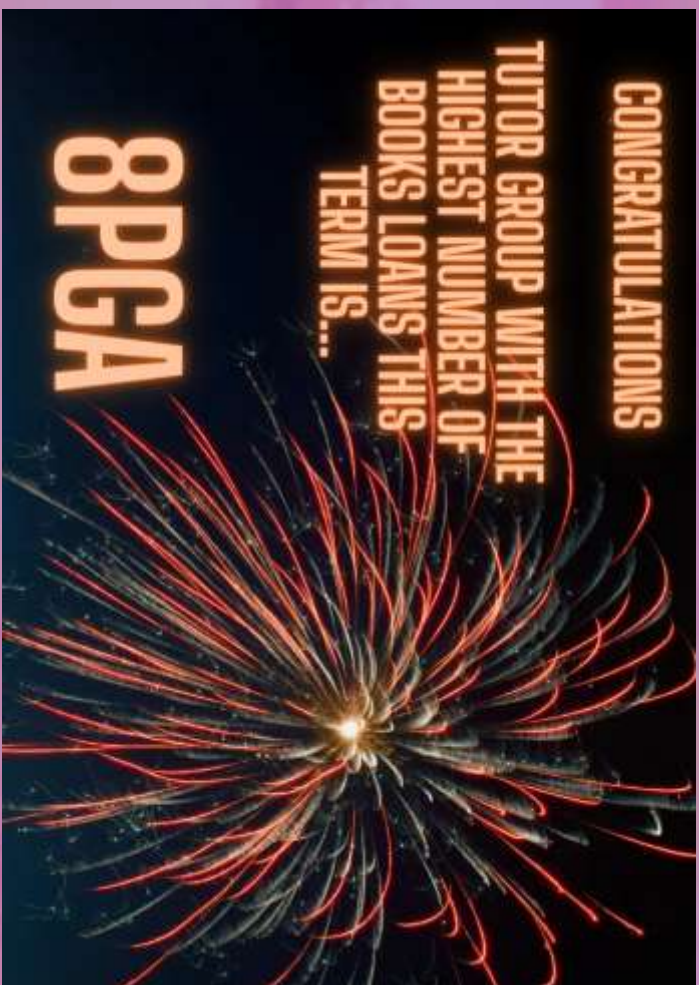
YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

POST-16

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.

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



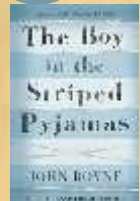
11+

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

The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

It has been such a pleasure for me to join Cardinal Newman and I have enjoyed supporting the reading of so many Year 7 and 8 groups during my first half term. I am currently reading 'The Book Thief' with my Year 7 groups which I have found really interesting. As a child, I always loved history, particularly around WW2. This book is set right in the midst of Nazi Germany, and it follows a young girl who is determined to read, even though Adolf Hitler has banned the books that do not fit his narrative. In my own time I am also reading 'The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas' which is a book that I loved as a child and one I am revisiting now. It follows Bruno as he moves with his family to Auschwitz so that his father can manage the concentration camp. I think these books are so important as they help us to remember the atrocities of the past and ensure it never happens again.

11+



DIARY
of a Wimpy Kid
DOG DAYS
AUGUST 13

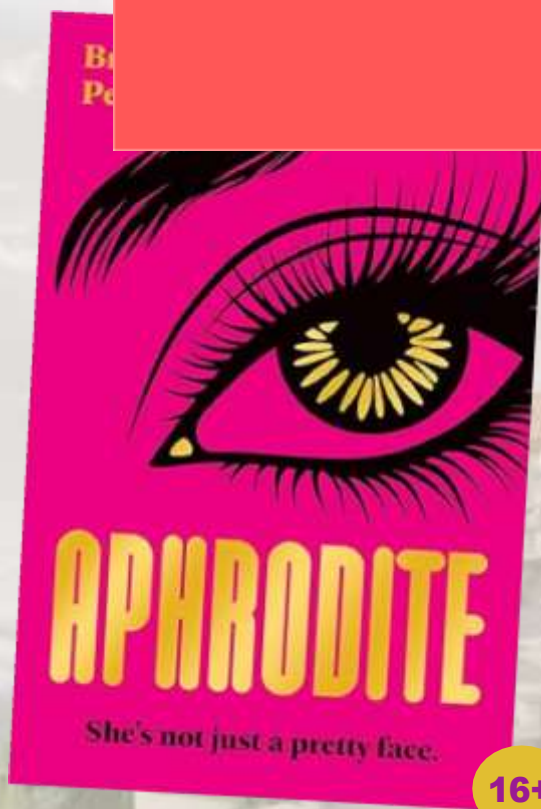
8+

My favourite book/book series is called 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' by Jeff Kinney. I like these types of books because the main character, Greg, opens up to what's happening in his life. The books also have a lot of pictures so you do not get bored. Similar recommendations are Tom Gates, Dork Diaries, Dog Man and Cat Kid.

Yuel T (Year 8)

MY FAVOURITE BOOK - CNCS STUDENT





This engaging retelling of Greek mythology offers a refreshing feminist perspective, placing Aphrodite firmly at the centre of the narrative. It is rare to find a retelling devoted entirely to her story, making this novel a welcome and distinctive addition to the genre.

Bryony Pearce writes with intensity and confidence, immersing the reader immediately in a story driven by strong emotion and a fiercely independent protagonist, alongside her complex relationship with Ares. Supporting characters such as Syn, Atalanta and Apollo are thoughtfully developed, while Hephaestus is portrayed in a way that makes him difficult to sympathise with.

A compelling and empowering read, this novel is highly recommended for students interested in mythology, retellings, and strong female narratives.

Mrs Aston, Head of English

Student Book Recommendation



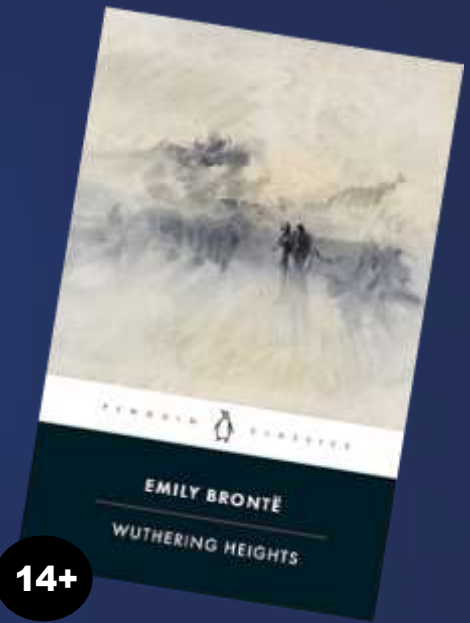
A perfect book to find out about business so you can become a business owner yourself. This book is all about becoming an entrepreneur. Mark Zuckerberg had many challenges along the way but he fought and worked hard to be successful. Can you do the same?

Xavier M (Y8)

PUZZLES AND MISCELLANEOUS

RIDDLE

First 2 students to the library
with the correct answer
receive a sweetie treat!



*What gets
wet while
drying?*

		3	6		
	2				4
5				6	
	3				5
3				1	
		1	4		



Contributors to this issue are: Mrs Aston, Mrs Gallo, Yuel T (Year 8) & Xavier M (Year 8).