



NEWS

Happy Spring!

Now we are officially into Spring and it is wonderful to see the lighter mornings and evenings starting to appear. The second half of this term has been slightly shorter yet there has been plenty of activity going on in the library. Revision sessions continue as well as many students coming in to revise before school, at break and lunchtime for their assessments and mock exams. Library lessons have also continued with some taking part in World Book Day activities as well as using the Sora Reading app to explore reading resources to complete tasks in their Reading Reward booklets.

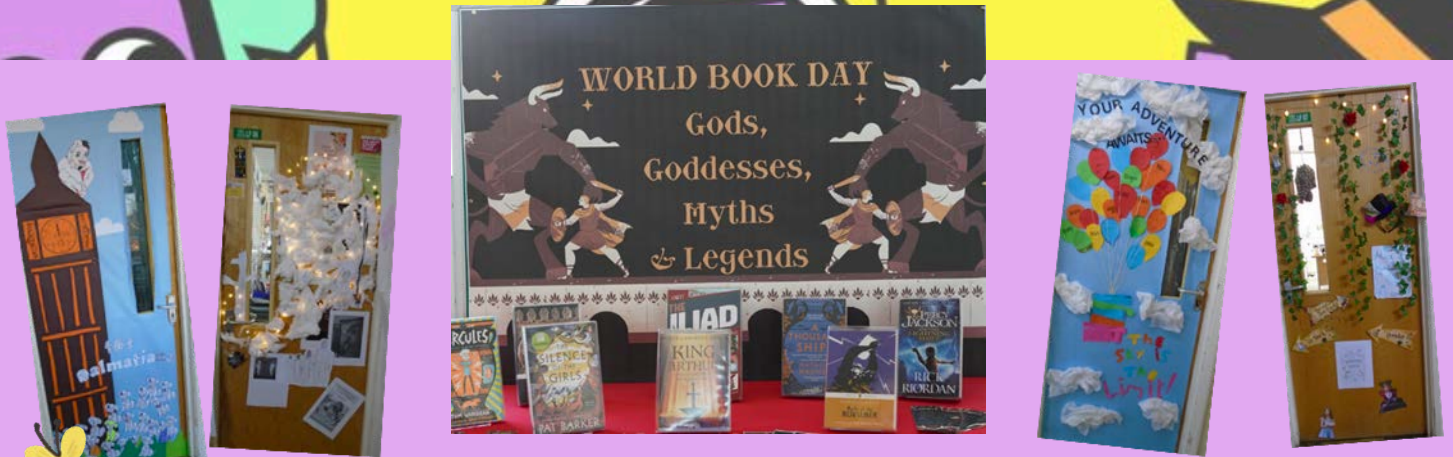
World Book Day was an amazing success with activities, games, competitions and quizzes during social times. I was privileged to be part of judging the Year 7 'Dress the Door' competition which I enjoy so much each year - there were amazing creations that demonstrated such fantastic imaginations!

Mrs McLachlan (Library Manager)

World Book Day Library Competition Winners

Library Quiz	Where is Medusa?
HUGO S - 8IVY	IZABELA R - 8PGA
Best Staff Costume (voted for by students)	Dress the Door
Miss Mills	7CML

World Book Day

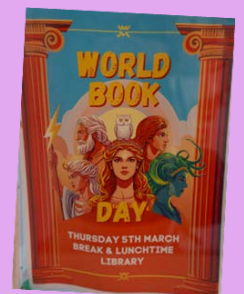


To highlight the *National Year of Reading 2026* the library celebrated World Book Day with a *Gods, Goddesses, Myths and Legends* theme. Linking with the English Department, whose theme this year was Greek Mythology, the library explored Gods and Goddesses from around the world including Africa, China, Norse, Celtic, South America and Europe. There were different activities during Year 7 and Year 8 library lessons as well as competitions, *Where is Medusa in the Library?* and a quiz centred around Greek Mythology. Year 7 also took part in the annual *Dress the Door* competition and students were encouraged to vote for the *Best Staff Costume* competition. There were sweetie treats and chocolate available at break and lunchtime in the library and prizes awarded to winners of the competitions. It was a fabulous day, the sun was shining and everyone had a fantastic time!

For more information on the Government initiative, *National Year of Reading 2026*, please follow the links below:

[National Year of Reading 2026 | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Supporting the National Year of Reading 2026 | BookTrust](#)





WORLD BOOK DAY

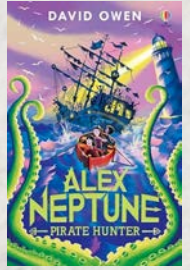


RECOMMENDED READING - SUMMER TERM

Alex Neptune Pirate Hunter – David Owen

Alex Neptune discovers he has mysterious powers connected to the ocean. When pirates arrive searching for a magical dragon egg, Alex and his friends must race to find it first and protect their town. Their journey takes them across dangerous seas and forces Alex to learn how to control his abilities.

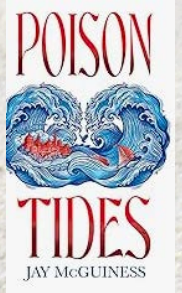
Themes: friendship, bravery, environmental protection, self-discovery, responsibility.



Poison Tides – Jay McGuinness

Bear has spent his life hidden inside a palace, but everything changes when he travels across a magical and dangerous world with three witches on a mission to rescue their sister. Along the way he uncovers secrets about magic, power and his own identity, while dark forces threaten those he cares about.

Themes: destiny vs. choice, friendship, courage, identity, prejudice and acceptance.



The Hive – Anna February

In a futuristic society organised like a giant beehive, bodyguard Feldspar is blamed for the murder of the princess she was meant to protect. With only a few days before her execution, she must work with a rebellious royal to uncover the truth. Their investigation reveals corruption and secrets hidden within their tightly controlled society.

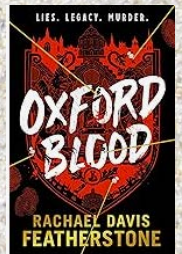
Themes: justice, power and control, truth vs. lies, loyalty, challenging authority.



Oxford Blood– Rachel Davis Featherstone

Eva hopes to earn a place at Oxford University, but her dreams are threatened when a fellow applicant is murdered during interview week. When suspicion falls on her, Eva begins to investigate the crime herself. As she searches for the truth, she uncovers hidden rivalries and secrets among the candidates.

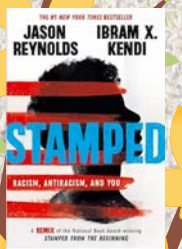
Themes: ambition, privilege and inequality, trust, truth, pressure and competition.



Stamped – Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

This non-fiction book explores the history of racist ideas and how they have shaped society in the past and present. Written in a direct and engaging style for young readers, it explains how racism developed and how people have challenged it. The book encourages readers to think critically about prejudice and fairness.

Themes: racism and antiracism, social justice, history, identity, critical thinking.



Lies We Sing To the Sea – Sarah Underwood

In a kingdom cursed by the sea god Poseidon, twelve girls must be sacrificed each year to keep the sea calm. When Leto survives the ritual and gains magical powers, she joins forces with the mysterious Melantho to try to break the curse. Together they must decide whether revenge or compassion will shape the future of their world.

Themes: fate vs. free will, revenge and forgiveness, love, sacrifice, challenging tradition.



YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

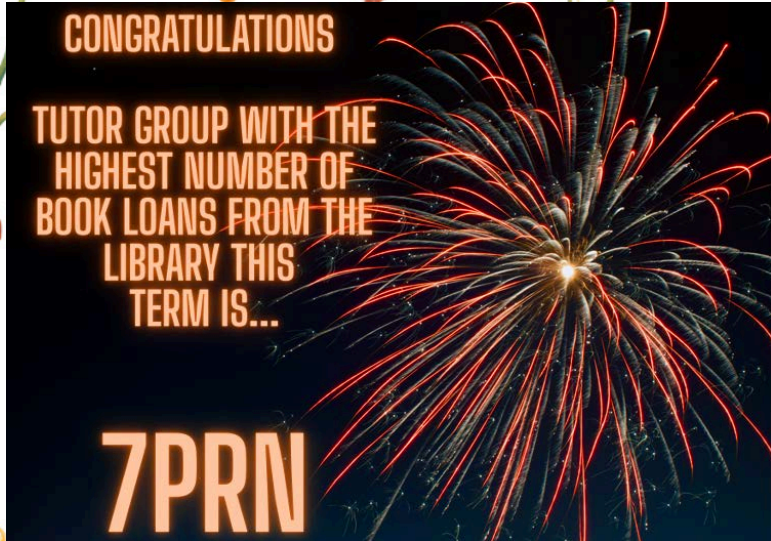
YEAR 10

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.



Wednesday 25th March 2026

At lunchtime the library celebrated its amazing team of Student Librarians and all the hard work and continued dedication they demonstrate towards making the library such a success.

This term there has been an addition to the team, Aarujan S from Year 10, who has spent the last term volunteering in the library which will go towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award. The library team is very happy to welcome him and support him whilst he has been learning new skills during some of his social time. We are very happy and delighted to announce that Aarujan has decided to remain as part of the team for the next term.

Well done and a huge THANK YOU to Lucie, Megan, Ketan, Sienna, Cole and Aarujan for everything they contribute to the library, their fellow students and staff.

They are an amazing team!!!

STUDENT LIBRARIAN SPRING TERM MEETING



PUZZLES AND MISCELLANEOUS

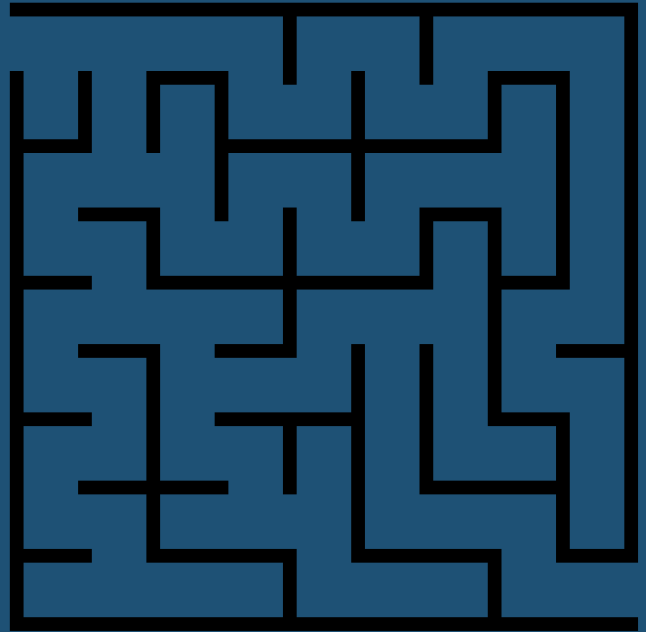
RIDDLE

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

I'm hidden but not lost,
colourful yet not alive.

Crack me open, and
surprises arrive. What am
I?

MINI MAZE



CELEBRATE

THE

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

2026



PICK UP A BOOK AND READ
TODAY!

