



# BRS Newsletter

Love - Respect - Hope - Kindness - Resilience

November 2023

## Headteacher's Introduction



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already into November and that Autumn is underway. As the weather slowly begins to change, students may need a waterproof coat and to wrap up a little warmer. Those students travelling into school on bikes should make sure that they are well lit for the darker mornings.

I am very impressed by the way students have settled and it has been wonderful to visit lessons and see great learning taking place. Year 7 have settled extremely well and already making their own very positive contribution to school life.

So far this term we have welcomed Year 11 families to the Preparing for Success Information Evening, where we shared lots of news regarding the Prom and plans for Year 11

We have also welcomed Year 5 and 6s for our Open Evening and our Year 7 Service of Blessings.

### Road Safety

Road safety remains a key priority for the school. We will continue to remind students of the importance of acting safely, but I would also politely ask families to be especially careful when driving near school and dropping off or picking up children. Please only stop where it is safe to do so even if this means your child has slightly further to walk.

## Upcoming Events

13th Nov	Anti-bullying week
7th Dec	Year 7 - 11 vaccinations
14th Dec	Year 7 and 8 Christmas Disco
18th Dec	Year 9 Charity Week
22nd Dec	Break up for Christmas. Early finish at 12.25pm.
8th Jan	INSET day
9th Jan	Return to school

## National Schools Awards

We are delighted to be able to share with our pupils, parents and community that we have been shortlisted for the NSA School of the Year 2023 and Leadership Team of the Year 2023.

We've been shortlisted for  
**SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2023**  
&  
**LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR 2023**

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS awards 2023**

St Ralph Sherwin  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



# School News



## Messages from our Year Leaders

### Message from Head of Y7—Miss Waters



Year 7 have had a fantastic first half term at secondary school. We are extremely impressed by how the year group has settled into their new school routine and environment. It has been great to see students embracing the BRS Journey by Joining In with lots of extra curricular activities as part of the Sutton Experience. In lessons, Year 7 have been working hard, engaging with lesson content and are excited to learn. They have impressed staff with their excellent attitude to learning. The conduct of students has been excellent, representing the year group brilliantly.

### Message from Head of Y8 - Miss Meredith

We have enjoyed another productive week in school and it is pleasing to see the vast majority of students settled into strong routines that are enabling them to be successful. We are particularly proud of all those students we have seen engaging in extra-curricular activities – from Sports to Music, to subject-based clubs, there has been some excellent individual achievements in the early weeks of Year 8. There are so many activities to get involved with in school and we hope all our students will consider joining a club. Attendance is already a key priority for Year 8. Research published in 2022 has highlighted the concern that schools across the country – including ours – have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic attendance figures. Statistics published by The Sutton Trust suggesting that 35% of secondary pupils have missed at least 10% of in-person sessions nationally since schools have re-opened. Given that we know there is a positive correlation between student attendance and outcomes – both academically and socially – it is vital that students are in school as much as possible. We will continue to celebrate and promote high attendance through our welcoming environment, supportive pastoral presence and reward initiatives in Year 9. At home, you can help by supporting your child in their positive outlook towards school and encourage good resilience by ensuring your child comes into school even if they are feeling tired or have a minor ailment such as a headache or a cold.



### Message from Head of Y9—Miss Harkin

It has been wonderful to see Year 9 arrive back to BRS with such a positive attitude. Students have been receiving praise not only in lessons but in extracurricular activities also. Quite a lot of Year 9 were involved in Open evening and were praised by parents/guardians for their honesty and pride in the school. They have also started to think about options and have started discussing career opportunities with the school careers advisor. Their work within lesson has also been recognised with some staff proudly showcasing some of Year 9 work at already reaching GCSE standard. Their behaviour has been exemplary and their thoughtfulness towards our young students is a delight to witness.



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# School News



## Message from Head of Y10—Mrs McDowall



Year 10 have made an excellent start to the school year and have really embraced their GCSE option choices. We have spent our Act of Collective Worship over the last couple of weeks thinking about our year group's part to play on the BRS

journey: kindness and resilience. We have talked about what success means and looks like and how this can be achieved both for the benefit of the GCSEs and for wider life. Thank you for your continued support with uniform: Year 10 are looking very smart and professional around school.

## Message from Head of Y11—Mrs Bannister

It has been a pleasure welcoming Year 11 back this half term to what will certainly be an exciting and fast-paced year! It has been lovely to see so many students engaged, working hard and focused in lessons and it is clear they are ready for the challenges that Year 11 will bring. Thank you to families for the commitment with uniform, it is appreciated, just a polite reminder it is no sports branding on shoes or trainers and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Year team. I would encourage families to make sure you have access to ClassCharts to encourage your young person to achieve those achievement points.



## Attendance Reminders

ClassCharts and Attendance - Did you know that you can see your child's attendance record on ClassCharts. Select the Attendance tab when viewing students from that school. Selecting this tab will present you with a table of your child's attendance data for the past 31 days. To change the displayed timeframe of attendance records, click on the Date button and select the date range of your choice. Attendance records fall under four categories: Present, Late, Authorised absence and Unauthorised absence.

## CAFOD

Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

Within school, we have taken part CAFOD family fast day. This is a day where we strip back from all the things we are used to and try to live in solidarity with those across the world who do not have enough to eat. We asked staff and students in school to consider having a lighter lunch where they paid £1 for soup and a roll. All money raised has gone to CAFOD and we are so pleased we can continue supporting this charity. Also, we have been collecting dried food and tins for our Harvest collection this year. We are overwhelmed with the support, so thank you for all donations. This will be so rewarding for those in our local community who have very little, especially as we head into colder months. Finally, please keep your eyes peeled as we launch our Samaritans shoebox appeal. We have set up a competition between forms this year, to create Christmas packages which will be sent to various children across 160 Countries who will not receive anything for Christmas this year



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# School News



## Reading to Succeed

We are committed to providing high quality reading opportunities for all pupils.



We follow the synthesis of research provided by Doug Lemov's book, 'Reading Reconsidered' which surmises that there are four key reading priorities when it comes to learning.

### Our approach to Literacy –

- All pupils will read for five minutes in each lesson
- Pupils will complete the form time reading programme.
- Reading ages determined and intervention put in place where applicable.

*"The more you read, the more you know. The more that you learn, the places you'll go."* Dr Seuss could have been talking about the students at Robert Sutton with this quote as reading has become a core part of everyday life.

By the end of year 11, our students will have read a huge number of books with challenging themes and vocabulary. When you walk around the building in the morning there is a sense of calm and focus as students enjoy their latest book.

Our reading programmes have really helped to increase literacy levels but also to develop a love for reading in our students.

Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy  
'Academic excellence, spiritual development and social awareness through Christ.'

# LITERACY

- Always bring a reading book to school.
- You will read for five minutes or more in every lesson.
- Enhance your vocabulary through reading.
- Track the text to show you are listening.

'Literacy is the key to learning across all subjects and a strong predictor of outcomes in later life.'  
- Education Endowment Foundation



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# Recommended Reading List KS3

"The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you will go."  
-Dr. Seuss

## Fantasy

### Developing Reader

Jenny Nimmo – *Midnight for Charlie Bone from the Red King series*

### Confident Reader

Michelle Paver – *Wolf Brother from the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*

Cornelia Funke – *Dragon Rider*

### Advanced Reader

Gareth Nix – *Old Kingdom Series, start with Sabriel*

Phillip Pullman – *The Northern Lights Series*

Peter Dickinson – *The Ropemaker*



## Horror

### Developing Reader

R. L Stine - *The Goosebumps Series*

M.D Spenser – *The Animal Nightmare*

Ian Livingstone – *Caverns of the Snow Witch and other titles,*

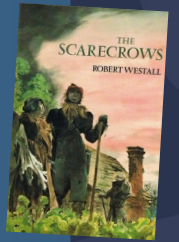
### Confident Reader

Darren Shan – *Vampire Blood Trilogy, start with Cirque Du Freak*

Robert Westall - *The Scarecrows*

### Advanced Reader

Stephen Cole – *The Wereling series, start with Wounded*



## Action & Adventure

### Developing Reader

Siobhan Dowd – *London Eye Mystery*

Paul Jennings – *Unbelievable! (Short stories)*

Anthony Horowitz – *Alex Rider series, start with Stormbreaker*

### Confident Reader

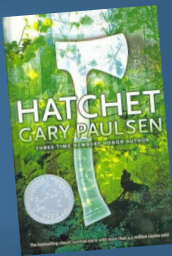
Alan Gibbons – *Shadow of the Minotaur*

Gary Paulsen – *Hatchet*

### Advanced Reader

Malorie Blackman - *Noughts and Crosses*

Scott Westerfeld – *Uglies*



## Science Fiction

### Developing Reader

Robert Swindells - *Hydra*

### Confident Reader

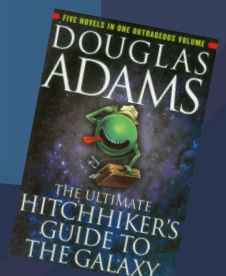
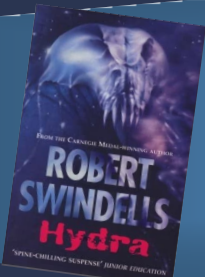
Ann Halam – *Dr Franklin's Island*

Allison Allen-Gray - *Unique*

### Advanced Reader

George Orwell – *1984*

Douglas Adams - *Hitchhiker's Guide to the*





# Recommended Reading List KS3

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The more that you learn,  
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-Dr. Seuss

## Emotional and Epic

### Developing Reader

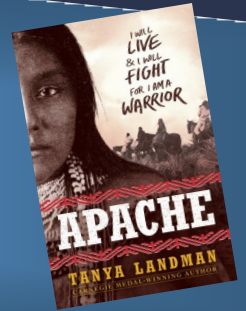
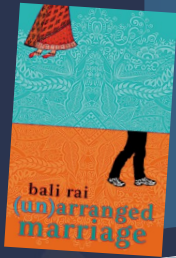
Sharon Creech – *Heartbeat*  
Frank Cottrell Boyce - *Millions*

### Confident Reader

Bali Rai – *(Un)Arranged Marriage*  
Kevin Crossley Holland – *Gatty's Tale*  
Tanya Landman – *Apache: Girl Warrior*

### Advanced Reader

J. G. Ballard – *Empire of the Sun*  
Gudrun Pausewang – *The Last Children*



## Something different?

### Developing Reader

David Almond – *Skellig, Clay*  
Lincoln Peirce – *Big Nate, the Boy with the Biggest Head*

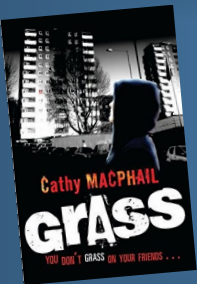
Mal Peet – *The Penalty*

### Confident Reader

Louis Sachar - *Holes*  
John Van De Ruit - *Spud*  
Catherine MacPhil – *Grass*

### Advanced Reader

Sue Townsend – *The Adrian Mole Series*



## Interested in another culture?

### Developing Reader

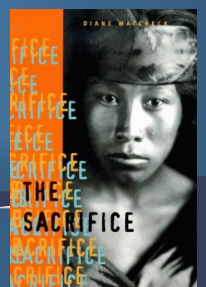
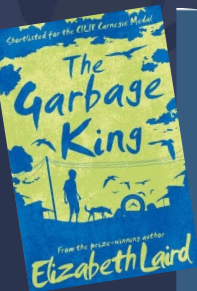
Elizabeth Laird - *The Garbage King*

### Confident Reader

Yen Mah Adeline – *The Chinese Cinderella*  
Geraldine McCaughrean – *The Kite Rider*

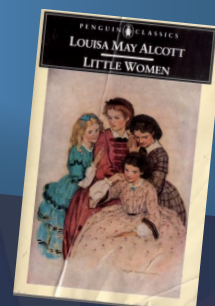
### Advanced Reader

Diane Matcheck - *The Sacrifice*



## Classics

Lemony Snicket – *Series of Unfortunate Events*  
Rudyard Kipling - *The Jungle Book*  
Anna Sewell - *Black Beauty*  
Mark Twain – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
C. S. Lewis - *The Chronicles of Narnia*  
Charles Dickens – *A Christmas Carol*  
R. L. Stevenson - *Treasure Island*  
Louisa May Alcott - *Little Women*  
J. R. R. Tolkien - *Lord of the Rings*





# THE SUTTON EXPERIENCE

**Monday** **Motivational Monday**

**Lunchtime**

- Year 7 & 8 Book Club RA/SD Library
- All Years Silent Study A106
- All Years Basketball Sports Hall
- All Years Trampoline Gym

Library Open to All Students

**Afterschool**

**Tuesday** **Challenge Tuesday**

- All Years Chess Club WG A107
- All Years Dance GYM
- All Years Hair & Beauty Careers Hub
- All Years Silent Study A106
- Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Sportshall
- Yr10 & Yr11 Further Maths AMD

Library Open to All Students

**Afterschool**

- Yr7, 8 & 9 Football HM Astro
- PREP+ A105
- LEXIA A106
- All Years Production Rehearsal AMD Hall

**Wednesday** **Wellness Wednesday**

**Lunchtime**

- All Years Silent Study A106
- All Years Computing A105
- All Years Dog Club HE A101
- All Years Table Tennis JD Sports Hall
- Key Stage 4 Book Club RA/SD Library
- Enterprise Club Careers Hub
- All Years Chaplaincy Team A201

Library Open to All Students

**Afterschool**

- Fuzz Club A203
- PREP+ A105
- LEXIA A106
- All Years Science WOW B206

**Thursday** **Thoughtful Thursday**

**Lunchtime**

- All Years Drama WH GYM
- All Years Silent Study A106
- All Year Netball EG Sports Hall
- French Club All Years A112
- Spanish Club All Years A111

Library Open to All Students

**Afterschool**

- All Years Science Club B206
- PREP+ A105
- LEXIA A106
- All Years Rugby Field
- All Years Production Rehearsal AMD Hall

**Friday** **Feel Good Friday**

**Lunchtime**

- All Years Badminton RW Sports hall
- All Years Silent Study A106
- Board Games PLH Library

Library Open to All Students

**Afterschool**

- PREP+ A105
- LEXIA A106



# Music Lessons

**Piano, Flute, Clarinet &  
Saxophone Lessons Available**

20 mins £11 each  
30 mins £16 each

Contact Mrs Richards for more details  
via email or phone

Email – [aniaaleksa@hotmail.com](mailto:aniaaleksa@hotmail.com)

Phone number – 07855 275190

*Piano*



*Flute*



*Clarinet*



*Saxophone*



*"I have been having piano lessons with Ania for 2 years and I thoroughly enjoy them. She makes learning music fun and she explains everything so I can understand. With Ania's lessons I have passed Grade 3 and am currently working on Grade 4 which I will be taking in the next few weeks. I couldn't wish for a better music teacher."*

**- Testimonial from a Year 10 Student**