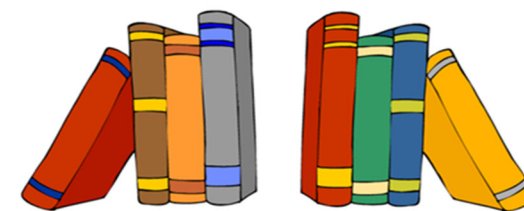


BVS Reading Newsletter

Spring 2023



Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying. We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group](#) and [genre](#) on our website.

Happy reading!
The BVS Book Group

Family Activity Recommendation

During the May-June half-term break each year, the tiny town of Hay-on-Wye in Powys holds a literature festival. This is now world-renowned, with authors and celebrities visiting from all over the globe to speak about their work.

The town is worth visiting at any time of the year, as it has more than twenty bookshops as well as other popular shops and activities. During the festival, however, it really comes alive!

Bishop Vaughan runs an annual visit to the festival and pupils typically participate in workshops and listen to talks. Speakers have included those whose work we read in school, such as Michael Morpugo, Malala Yousefzai, Carol Ann Duffy and Margaret Atwood.

Hay-on-Wye is about one hour and fifteen minutes from Swansea (from the school's postcode) and is well worth a visit. You can read more about the town and about this year's festival programme here:

<https://www.hayfestival.com/wales/home>



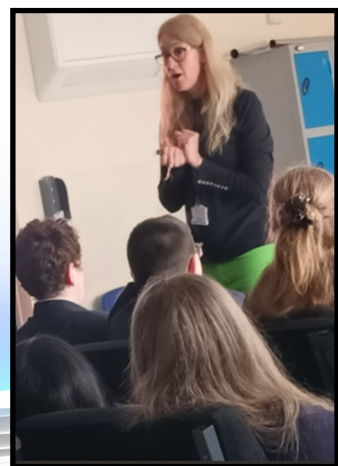
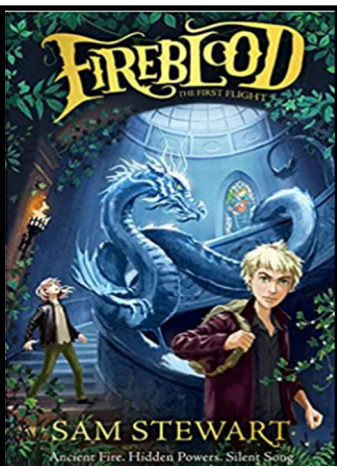
Author Visits!

We have been fortunate to have visits from two amazing authors this term. Our first visit was when record-breaking debut author, Annabel Steadman, (who has been described as the next JK Rowling!), ended her tour of local schools with her best-selling book 'Skandar and the Unicorn Thief' at Bishop Vaughan.

Annabel gave a fascinating talk to all Year 7 classes who were then able to take part in a workshop activity. They then had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book.



Our second visit was from Sam Stewart, the author of the newly released 'Fireblood', who gave an extremely interesting and engaging talk to all Year 8 classes. They then took part in a workshop activity to plan a story of their own.



BVS Book Group

When?
Wednesday lunchtimes

Where?
Headteacher's Office

What?
We meet each week to discuss the book we're reading together, to recommend books to one another and to plan reading-related trips and activities.

You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.
All welcome!

All book group members are provided with free copies of the books we read!

Book Group Feedback

We've recently been enjoying reading books individually and sharing reviews with the others in the group, as well as circulating some of our favourites for others to read. We've bought in a range of new books, including series such as the *Red Queen* series and the *Twisted Tales* books, which subvert the storylines of well-known fairytales.

We are currently planning a book group trip to Bath in conjunction with the History and Classics visit to the Roman Baths. With a range of bookshops, including Topping and Co., Waterstones and Mr. B's Book Emporium, we can't wait!



Staff Favourites:

Miss Cole (History):
'The Great Gatsby'; F. Scott Fitzgerald

Miss Davies (Sociology):
'Goodnight Mister Tom'; Michelle Magorian

Mrs. Sutton (Maths):
'The Saga of Darren Shan' (series); Darren O'Shaughnessy

This Pupil Recommends ...

Our committed book reviewer, Harrison in Year 10, recommends the following:

'Ninth House' by Leigh Bardugo

"I absolutely loved this book. The magic system was phenomenal and I'm so excited for the sequel!"

'Frenzy Island' by Richard E Rock

"Even though I did not give this book five stars, there is a lot of potential in this book. I thoroughly enjoyed it!"

'Cemetery Boy' by Aiden Thomas

"I loved this book. I really connected with some of the characters and the book shed light on some topics some of us are too afraid to speak about."

Wise Words:

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

Walt Disney

