

Our Book Club continues to play an important role in developing confident, thoughtful readers. Through shared reading experiences, we aim to help students **become better readers, love reading, and increase their cultural capital.**

**Cultural capital** means the knowledge of stories, ideas, and voices that help students better understand the world, succeed academically, and feel confident taking part in wider cultural and social conversations. Reading rich, varied texts together helps to ensure all students can access these opportunities.

Here's what your children have been enjoying in Book Club recently:

### Year 7 - Good Night, Mr. Tom

Year 7 are reading this moving World War II novel about a young evacuee adjusting to life in the countryside. Students are exploring themes of kindness, resilience, trust, and overcoming hardship.

**A question to ask at home: How does the relationship between the main characters in Goodnight Mr. Tom help both to change and grow?**

### Year 8 - Noughts & Crosses

Year 8 are engaging with Malorie Blackman's powerful novel set in a deeply divided society. The book encourages students to think critically about inequality, power, friendship, and fairness.

**A question to ask at home: What do you think the novel is trying to make readers reflect on about society and fairness?**

### Year 9 - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Year 9 are reading this distinctive novel told from a unique narrative perspective - a neurodiverse protagonist. Students are discussing ideas around communication, family, independence, and different ways of understanding the world.

**A question to ask at home: How does the way the story is told affect how you feel about the characters and events?**

### Year 10 - Never Let Me Go

Year 10 have begun this reflective and thought-provoking novel, which raises big questions about identity, memory, friendship, and what it means to be human. Students are engaging maturely with the themes and ideas.

**A question to ask at home: What kinds of questions does the novel raise about humanity or ethical responsibility?**

Encouraging conversations about reading at home helps students deepen their understanding, developing confidence in expressing ideas, and see reading as something meaningful and enjoyable. We remain impressed with the students' engagement and thoughtful discussion these texts inspire.

### Important Dates this Cycle

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – First of the Year 11 exams

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>-Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Half-term

How best to communicate with school

- Email [office@beckfootthornton.org](mailto:office@beckfootthornton.org) – this is monitored throughout the school day
- Calling us – please be aware that we have a small reception team, and staff will not always be able to speak to you during the school day
- Drop in – you can come to our weekly drop in to speak to the headteacher or a member of the leadership team
  - Parents Evenings

Please do not email individual members of staff as they may not be in school that day or have access to emails. If you cannot get through on the phone, please email and let us know: [office@beckfootthornton.org](mailto:office@beckfootthornton.org)

### Things to look forward to next week

Mon 04/05	School closed – Bank Holiday
Tues 05/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chess Club</li> <li>• 'Matilda' rehearsals</li> <li>• Y7-10 Girls Netball – after school</li> <li>• Y7, 8 and 9 Girls Rugby – after school</li> <li>• Y7-10 Rounders – after school</li> <li>• Y7-9 Rugby – after school</li> </ul>
Wed 06/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaming Club</li> <li>• Y7-10 Badminton – after school</li> <li>• Y7 Boys Football – after school</li> </ul>
Thurs 07/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 German Listening &amp; Reading exams</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ Club</li> <li>• Y7 &amp; 8 Rugby – after school</li> </ul>
Fri 08/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 Sports Studies exam</li> <li>• Y7-9 Kick About Football – after school</li> </ul>