


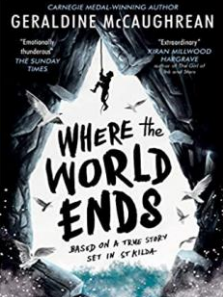
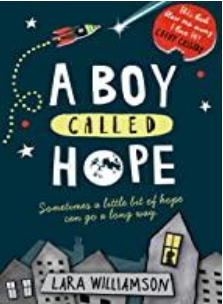



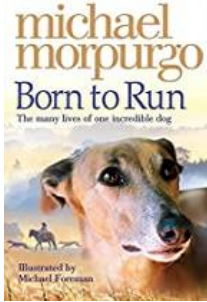
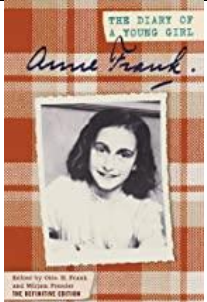

Welcome to The Chantry School transition reading list for students who will be joining us in September 2024. We strongly believe that reading is the key to success and we aim to nurture a love of reading in all our pupils. We have included a range of books which have been recommended by both students and teachers here in school. In this list you will find books to suit a range of interests and reading ages. There is something for everyone here, so please read the short synopsis which will give you a flavour and help you to decide which book(s) you will find most engaging.

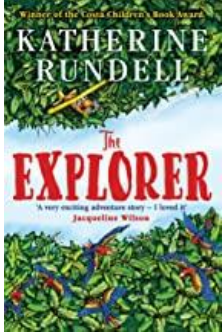

*“Come and play in the garden of imagination  
Let the seeds of your dreams  
Grow and blossom  
In distant lands and times forgotten.”*

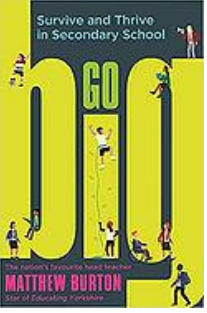

As part of your reading list, we have made some suggestions for activities you may like to try. We look forward to welcoming you to our school in September, when you will have lots of opportunity to discuss your reading, share your work and embark on more inspiring reading adventures with your form tutor!

Cover	Title/ author	Summary
	<p><b>The Lost Diary of Sami Star</b> Karen McCombie</p>	<p>Hannah’s parents seem to have forgotten her, preoccupied by current quarrels with her older sister. School isn’t much better – Hannah’s noticing a rift with her two so-called best friends, who seem wholly concerned with boys and whether other people are wearing the 'right' jeans. Then she finds a journal in the park. Hannah is fascinated by its creator, Sami, whose quirky photos and drawings appear in the diary.</p> <p>Sami seems really cool, but kind of sad. Hannah decides to try and find her and return the diary – but who is she? Can Hannah unpick the clues in the diary to find her?</p> <p>A short and accessible story about the challenges of teen life, family relationships and friendship. Acknowledging common problems of anxiety and the pressure to conform, it’s a perfect read for anyone who likes real-life stories with a touch of mystery. It also has a dyslexia-friendly layout, font and paper.</p>
	<p><b>Tales From Weird Street</b> Anne Fine</p>	<p>Interspersed with black-and-white illustrations to complement the super readable text, this masterclass in storytelling from a distinguished author is fascinating, entertaining and just creepy enough to leave readers feeling a little bit uneasy.</p>
	<p><b>Poetry:</b> <b>Everything all at Once</b> Steven Camden</p>	<p>An achingly beautiful collection of poems about one week in a secondary school where everything happens all at once. Zooming in across our cast of characters, we share moments that span everything from hoping to make it to the end of the week, facing it, fitting in, finding friends and falling out, to loving lessons, losing it, and worrying, wearing it well and worshipping from afar.</p>

	<p><b>Beyond the Bright sea</b> – Lauren Wolk</p>	<p>Crow lives on Cuttyhunk, a tiny island off the coast of Massachusetts, having been rescued as a baby from a small boat set adrift from the opposite island of Penikese. But Penikese was once a leper colony, and Crow can't help but wonder if she will develop the disease one day too. Kind and quiet Osh and practical, twinkly Miss Maggie reassure her that her worries are groundless.</p> <p>One night, after seeing a fire on the opposite island, curious Crow sets off on a quest to find out who is on Penikese and why – and in doing so, begins a series of discoveries that will reveal her unknown family.</p> <p>A wonderful tale of trying to find your place within the world, <i>Beyond The Bright Sea</i> transports the reader to a luminous island of sea, wind and driftwood, set apart from the busy world. The story addresses big themes of prejudice and community with a light touch.</p>
	<p><b>Where the World Ends</b> – Geraldine McCaughrean</p>	<p>Every time a lad came fowling on the St Kilda stacs, he went home less of a boy and more of a man. If he went home at all, that is...</p> <p>In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stac to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they have been abandoned to endure storms, starvation and terror. And how can they survive, housed in stone and imprisoned on every side by the ocean?</p>
	<p><b>A Boy Called Hope –</b> Lara Williamson</p>	<p>Dan Hope is 11 years old. His dad left his family when he was little. One day, after arguing with Dan's mother, his dad walked out the door and never came back. Dan is starting to feel his dad's absence more and more. His best friend Jo, who is crazy about saints, and his new-found friend Christopher, expert at Taekwondo, help him get through his sorrow over his dad, and find a way to accept his mum's new boyfriend into his life. And through all this he has his annoying older sister to worry about as well.</p> <p><i>A Boy Called Hope</i> is a moving story about a boy's search for his dad. Dan is a funny and likeable boy who tackles the questions he has in his life head on. His determination to find answers is inspiring and will make the reader laugh as well as cry. Dan never gives up hope and always finds new ways to tackle the challenges he faces - whether it's trying to find his dad or mend his friendships.</p>
	<p><b>The Machine Gunners</b> - Robert Westall</p>	<p>The <b>Machine Gunners</b> by <b>Robert Westall</b> is set during the blitz of WWII in a northern British city. It follows the adventures of 14-year-old Chas McGill and his friends as they discover a downed German <b>machine</b> gun and secretly build their own bunker to house it, the better to defend Britain's shores from the upcoming German invasion.</p>

	<p><b>Born To Run – Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>Joy and heartbreak combine in this bittersweet tale of a champion greyhound's journey through life -- and from owner to owner! "The sack wasn't just drifting gently along like everything else, it was turning of its own accord. There was definitely something inside it, struggling against the side of the plastic bag, kicking at it, squeaking and squealing in terror. He had no idea what it might be, only that it was alive and in danger of drowning." When Patrick saves a litter of greyhound puppies from the canal, he can't bear to hand them all over to the RSPCA. He pleads with his parents: couldn't he just keep one of them? But nothing will convince them and Patrick cries himself to sleep -- only to be woken by a greyhound puppy licking his face! Patrick christens his puppy Best Mate, and that's what he becomes. Patrick's favourite thing is to watch Best Mate running at full stretch on the heath, a speeding bullet, a cheetah-dog. Until one day Best Mate is kidnapped by a greyhound trainer, and begins a new life as a champion race dog. Suzie, the greyhound trainer's step-daughter, loves Best Mate on first sight and gives him a new name, Bright Eyes. But what will happen when he can't run anymore?</p>
	<p><b>Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank</b></p>	<p>All Jewish people are frightened for their lives, so the Frank family hide. Life is dangerous but they hope for the best - until they are finally discovered. Anne Frank was a real person, and this is her diary.</p> <p>In Amsterdam, in the summer of 1942, the Nazis forced teenager Anne Frank and her family into hiding. For over two years they, another family and a German dentist lived in a secret annexe, fearing discovery. All that time Anne kept a diary.</p> <p>An intimate record of tension and struggle, adolescence and confinement, anger and heartbreak, Anne Frank's diary is a unique document famed throughout the world. It portrays innocence and humanity, suffering and survival in the starkest and most moving terms.</p>
	<p><b>The Secret Lake – Karen Inglis</b></p>	<p>A lost dog, a hidden time tunnel and a secret lake... A page-turning time travel adventure for ages 8-11.</p> <p>When Stella and her younger brother, Tom, move to their new London home, they become mystified by the disappearances of Harry, their elderly neighbour's dog. Where does he go? And why does he keep reappearing wet-through? Their quest to solve the riddle over the summer holidays leads to a boat buried under a grassy mound - and a tunnel that takes them to a secret lake. Who is the boy rowing towards them? Why is he so terrified? And whose are those children's voices carried on the wind from beyond the woods? Stella and Tom soon discover that they have travelled back in time to their home and its gardens almost 100 years earlier. Here they make both friends and enemies and uncover startling connections between the past and present.</p> <p>'A modern classic for children' The Secret Lake has been described by readers as a "modern Tom's Midnight Garden" and compared in atmosphere with The Secret Garden and the Nancy Drew mysteries. Karen Inglis describes it as, "a time travel mystery adventure with modern twists - the kind of adventure that we all loved to read as a child, but brought right up to date"</p>

	<p><b>The Explorer –</b> Katherine Rundell</p>	<p>Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.</p>
	<p><b>Rook –</b> Anthony McGowan</p>	<p>Nicky is in love, navigating a new world of girlfriends and romance. Meanwhile, Kenny is convinced that the new kid in school is the latest incarnation of Dr Who. But both are recalled to more important matters when Tina their Jack Russell is blamed for attacks on local racing pigeons, and Nicky and Kenny must find the real culprit.</p>
	<p><b>Out of My Mind –</b> Sharon M Draper</p>	<p>Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.</p> <p>In this breakthrough story, reminiscent of <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i>, from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.</p>
	<p><b>All the Things that could go Wrong</b> Stewart Foster</p>	<p>An absorbing story about bullying and friendship crafted with the right balance of warmth and tension to engage readers. The narrative alternates between the viewpoints of Alex and Dan. Daily life is a struggle for Alex, plagued by worries caused by his OCD and living in fear of the awful bullying at school. Dan's life is not straightforward either. Since his older brother left home, everything in Dan's world feels different. Dan plays out his frustrations at school, messing around in class and finding easy targets at school to bully with his friends. As time goes by, the boys end up working together on a raft-building project and a new empathy begins to develop as their relationship grows.</p>

	<p><b>Non- Fiction:</b> <b>Go Big</b> <b>Matthew Burton</b></p>	<p>Written by head teacher and star of Educating Yorkshire, Matthew Burton, this is the ultimate secondary school survival guide. Secondary school can seem scary. Corridors are wide, older students look terrifying and there's homework, messy friendships and stressful exams to deal with. But, whether you're about to land at secondary school or you're still settling in, Mr Burton is here to guide you through your journey - worry-free. From your first day to your final exams, this handbook will have you achieving, succeeding and being the best you can be!</p>
	<p><b>Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow</b> – Jessica Townsend</p>	<p>A cursed girl escapes death and finds herself in a magical world - but is then tested beyond her wildest imagination</p> <p>Morrigan Crow is cursed. Having been born on Eventide, the unluckiest day for any child to be born, she's blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks--and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday.</p> <p>But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor.</p>

### Activities:

**These activities can be applied to any of the books you read.**

Once you have read the book, we would like you to use your imagination and creative skills to make a product\* which includes the following information:

- A brief summary of what happens in the text
- Information about the main characters: family, age, appearance, personality, for example.
- Themes and key ideas
- A small extract that you found interesting, which moved you or made you reflect. Include an explanation of how and why.

\*Your product **could** be one of the following:

- Poster
- Storyboard with detailed annotation
- Short movie
- Book review
- Power point presentation
- A talk for your new form class
- A song/ piece of music
- diorama

...or any other suitable idea of your choice.

This must be your own work. It should be original (there should be no copying and pasting from the internet)