

St. Bernard's High School Literacy Events Calendar 2025-2026

DATE	EVENT	ABOUT / WEBSITE	DETAILS	LEAD	YEAR GROUP
September 2025	STAR test for Accelerated Reader	Baseline STAR test for all year 7 students	• Arrange the tests in September within a two week window. • Librarian to provide an individual diagnostic report for each student to go in their booklet. • Librarian to provide each teacher with a progress report for their class. • Teacher/Librarian to use this information to support readers and suggest interventions.	Librarian English teachers	Year 7
October 2025	RE Debate Season	Recreation of a debate forum and a trial recreation.	• Students are guided to present evidence/arguments in realistic trial or debate scenarios.	RE	A Level
7 th -13 th October 2025	Libraries Week 2021	Libraries Week is an annual showcase and celebration of the best that libraries have to offer. Each year we pick a theme and explore the innovative and surprising things that libraries are doing to support their communities.	• Find out more here. • Encourage children to join a library • Visit your local library as a class • Celebrate in your own school library • register now to take part in Libraries Week and stay up to date on this year's campaign. • Download posters for your library here.	Librarian	All Year Groups
3rd October 2025	National Poetry Day	Book a poet to conduct an assembly + workshop with English classes during this event week.	• Find out more here. • Poetry competition • Start sharing a poem a day with your class	Librarian	Year 9

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			Check out the resources and activities on the National Poetry Day website		
October 2025	Black History Month	Black History Month found its way to the UK in 1987 following its successful implementation in the USA and Canada. Its role was to celebrate and inform the public about all aspects of black history and culture. In the early days, primary schools usually marked the event through a series of assemblies focusing on some significant black individuals like Mary Seacole and Jesse Owens or events like the <i>Windrush</i> . Since then, a great deal of work has been done to educate and support teachers in looking at black history, not just as something to be celebrated in one month but something that is embedded throughout the year.	- Black History evening - Songs, music, readings and poetry - Library display - Social Media Campaign	Cultural Committee	Year 7-13
Half Term					
November 2025	Non-Fiction November	Why not celebrate National Non-Fiction November by arranging an author visit or exploring one of the many types of non-fiction books for children and young people, any time during the month of November? You could team up with a library, local museum or organisation and build a session around books on a particular topic, such as local history or famous people.	- Students will choose a non-fiction text to read, write about and develop video responses to. - Find out more here. - Blog and Padlet about Non-Fiction November here.	Reading Scholars/Library	

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May 2026	Katya Balen author visit	The writer of 'October, October' (our tutor reads novel) visits the school to conduct a workshop, sign books and meet students.	- Social media campaign - Photographs	Library	School Workshops All year 7
December 2025	STAR Test for Accelerated Reader	Second AR STAR test for all year 7 students.	- Arrange the tests in December within a two week window. - Librarian to provide an individual diagnostic report for each student to go in their booklet. - Librarian to provide each teacher with a progress report for their class. - Teacher/Librarian to use this information to support readers and suggest interventions.	Librarian English	All year 7 students will complete this in their library lesson.
December 2025	Poetry by Heart	Poetry by Heart is a national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. It's also a website for teaching and learning about poetry – by heart and out loud, and with plenty of choice for young people to explore poems and find the ones that speak to them. Taking part in Poetry By Heart is all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way that leads to its life-long enjoyment. Registration, participation and competition entry are free for schools and colleges in England.	Year 7 and 8 students will participate in this, and winners will share their poetry recital in assemblies and across social media. Poetry By Heart About	English	
Christmas Holiday					

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14th February 2026	International Book Giving Day	Pssst... give the gift of books on #BookGivingDay. Book fairy? Book ninja? Call it what you will, but, stealthily leaving books out in the wild for little people to find is what it's all about! Event: Book giving	Departments are invited to nominate a student to receive a book related to that subject. Students are presented with this in assemblies.	EAB/Literacy Lead	7-13
February 2026	Abridged Macbeth	Event: Students will showcase an abridged version of Macbeth	Drama students will perform an abridged version of Macbeth for students and staff.	Drama Department	All year groups
Half Term					
6th March 2026	World Book Day	World Book Day is a registered charity on a mission to give every child and young person a book of their own. It's also a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading.	Dress up Raise money for charity linked to books Library full week events Book treasure hunt The Masked Reader Form room door decoration	EAB/Literacy Lead Whole School	All staff and students
26th March 2026	Passion Play	Students arrange and perform the passion play for the whole school.	Students perform the passion play and prepare, rehearse and set up the production.	Sixth Form	Year 13
March-June 2026	Carnegie Children's Book Award - shortlist and school shadowing scheme announced!	Every spring, CLIP: The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals invites reading groups in libraries, schools, homes... in fact, anywhere there are children and young people and books, to get involved with shadowing. Reading activity takes place from March to June; from the moment that the shortlists are revealed to the final winners	Students and Librarian read a selection of the Carnegie books and complete articles for the library newsletter.	Librarian Reading Scholars/Leaders	Students in Year 7 and 8 will follow the Carnegie award

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		announcement. Usually runs March – June			
8th March 2026	International Women's Day	International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.	A promotion of International Women's Day Thank you – postcards to women with positive messages.	EAB	Whole School
March 2026	STAR test Accelerated Reader	3 rd STAR test for all year 7 students	• Arrange the tests in March within a two week window. • Librarian to provide an individual diagnostic report for each student to go in their booklet. • Librarian to provide each teacher with a progress report for their class. • Teacher/Librarian to use this information to support readers and suggest interventions.	Librarian English teachers	All year 7 students
Easter Holiday					
22nd April	Careers Fair	All students are invited in to speak to recruiters from universities, local businesses and various National bodies.	• Students discuss potential future careers and pathways with employers enhancing their oral skills	LPH	All years
28th April	Jack Petchey Speak Out Final	Students receive one day workshop from Jack Petchey trainers to support public speaking and speech making	• Series of workshops over one day • Judging and shortlisting • Shortlisted students enter the regional final	English Department	Year 10
23rd April 2026	Shakespeare Day	Many fans and enthusiasts across the world celebrate Shakespeare Day on April 23 every year to honour the birth of Shakespeare.	• Library display update • Social Media post • Reference in the Library newsletter	Library	Whole School

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April-May 2026	Spelling Bee	An inter class spelling bee promoting literacy across Year 7.	- VLE resources - Social media campaign - Winner photo and prize - Article in the Library Newsletter	English Department	Year 7 and 8
Half Term					
5 th June 2026	World Environment Day	World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June every year and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment.	- Find out more here. 20 inspiring stories of people saving our planet (share one or two!) - Share and promote books with a similar theme for KS2	Library	Social Media Posts Library display.
10 th June	UCAS Careers Fair	Students in Year 12 visit a local area for the regional UCAS careers fair.	Students are expected to discuss options and interact with representatives from a range of different universities.	LPH	Year 12
19 th June 2026	National Writing Day: The St Bernard's Prize for Writing	<i>National Writing Day</i> is an annual celebratory project designed to inspire people across the UK to get writing. This is the final event in the literary calendar for St Bernard's. Each year's theme will coincide with the liturgical theme. This year it is 'Hope'. Write a poem, short story, essay, short play or article on the theme of 'Hope'. No more than 500 words (1 page)	- Poster advertisement campaign - Social media campaign - Feature in the Final Library Newsletter and on the website - Prize: a badge and book token and a certificate from the Headteacher.	Literacy Lead Librarians Reading Scholars	School writing competition linked to the liturgical theme of the year. Hope
June 2026	Talk the Talk	Preparation for interviews	An external agency visits to train students on effective	ELO	Year 12

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			interpersonal skills and how to excel in interview scenarios		
June 2026	Work Experience	Students are expected to interact with businesses to arrange and complete a work experience.	- Students must contact businesses, discuss and arrange their own work experience - Students will be deploying their interpersonal oral skills in their placements	LPH	Year 12 & Year 10
End of June 2026	STAR test Accelerated Reader		- Arrange the tests in June/July within a two- week window. - Librarian to provide an individual diagnostic report for each student to go in their booklet. - Librarian to provide each teacher with a progress report for their class. - Teacher/Librarian to use this information to support readers and suggest interventions.	Library	