

Your guide to Bookbuzz Secondary



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Upcoming dates for your diary



7 September
Student book ordering opens.

18 September
Registration closes!

25 September
The deadline to pay for your order to avoid cancellation.



16 October
Final deadline for student book orders.



December
All your students' books will be delivered by the end of term!

Welcome to Bookbuzz Secondary!

Bookbuzz Secondary is an exciting reading programme developed by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity.

Bookbuzz Secondary is designed in collaboration with students, teachers and librarians. It gives your Year 7 and 8 students the chance to **choose and keep a book they'll love from a selection of 16 expert-curated titles, newly selected each year.** You'll also receive two copies of every book to share across your school.

In this guide, and through content on **the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area**, you'll get access to grab-and-go resources, such as tips on how to use Bookbuzz Secondary in your school to **keep the buzz of reading alive** throughout the school year.

Let's get started!

Visit your exclusive Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area for grab-and-go resources: booktrust.org.uk/deliver-bookbuzz-secondary

Your password to access the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area is:
bookworm

What you'll find in the launch pack

- The 2026 Bookbuzz Secondary books**
Your launch pack contains two copies of each Bookbuzz Secondary book from this year's collection for students to explore and identify their preferred book to keep. Remember, the initial set is for your school to keep too - and are the perfect addition to your library or classroom!
- My Choice Bookmark**
There's a bookmark for each student to keep once they have chosen their book. The bookmark has tick boxes so students can select which book they'd like and it's a helpful tool for you to label each book's new owner once they've been delivered.
- Poster**
This bright and engaging poster can be used in your classroom or library to further showcase this year's Bookbuzz Secondary books. You can find another design to download, print and display on the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area. Share pictures of your display with us on social media using **#Bookbuzz**.





Bring Bookbuzz Secondary to life

Start your school's reading journey with activities and support in our Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area

Getting started

What you will find on the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area

Explore exclusive content created to support you and inspire your students. Access the detailed information about this year's books, downloadable grab-and-go activities and inspiring case studies showcasing how Bookbuzz Secondary has built a culture of reading for pleasure in other schools.

The Bookbuzz Secondary Film 2026

Start the excitement with the Bookbuzz Secondary Film, where this year's authors share their creative inspiration and pitch their books to help students choose their favourite.

'What's My Favourite Genre?' Quiz

You can download and print the "What's My Favourite Genre?" quiz, a fun way to help students discover their reading preferences and narrow down their choices.

How to talk about books – Discussion guide for practitioners

Use this to help spark discussion between your students to find a book they'll enjoy. You can lead the discussion as a whole class activity alongside the Bookbuzz Secondary PowerPoint or with students independently, in smaller groups.

Top tips for introducing Bookbuzz Secondary to your students

We've collated some ideas into a helpful list on how to use Bookbuzz Secondary in your library sessions or English classes.

Don't forget!

Your password to access is:

bookworm

Check out the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator Area now: booktrust.org.uk/deliver-bookbuzz-secondary

Keep the buzz going

Use this checklist and the activities you can find in the Bookbuzz Secondary Coordinator area when running your Bookbuzz Secondary session. This helps keep students engaged with their Bookbuzz Secondary books, and the wider collection.

Share follow up activities with students:

- ☐ Bookbuzz Secondary Challenge sheet
- ☐ Book Review Template
- ☐ "What Happens Next"? sheet

These can be completed digitally or printed out for students to complete in your Bookbuzz Secondary session.

- ☐ Encourage students to enter the 'Design a Bookmark' competition by 15 January 2027:

Your students will have the chance of their design being used as a downloadable bookmark next year with our exciting competition, with additional prizes for your school, the selected winner and runner up! Find more details and download the template at: booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz/competition

- ☐ Register your school for free live virtual author workshops through our free BookTrust Represents programme which supports better representation in children's books and spotlights books and authors of colour that reflect the rich diversity of the society we live in. Head to: booktrust.org.uk/represents for more information.
- ☐ Encourage your Year 8 students to become 'Bookbuzz Champions' by writing book reviews to support Year 7 students with their book selections. You can use the Book Review Template in the Coordinator Area to support this activity.
- ☐ Celebrate and share your Bookbuzz Secondary moments with us! Post photos or videos of your Bookbuzz Secondary activities or book collections using **#Bookbuzz**.



The Bookbuzz Secondary books

The following pages provide a short synopsis for each book. For a longer summary of each book scan the QR code or visit booktrust.org.uk/deliver-bookbuzz-secondary



Dragonborn

By Struan Murray

An epic fantasy adventure, set in a world where dragons live among humans. When Alex discovers a shocking family secret, she's uprooted from home and sent to the dragon island of Skralla, where she must find a way to unlock the hidden power inside her.

Genre: Fantasy, adventure

Key Themes: Belonging, bravery, grief (death of a parent)

368 pages



Blitzers

By Alastair Chisholm and Francesca Ficorilli

A pacey, dyslexia-friendly novella with a science fiction twist. When Danny's new virtual fighting 'blitzer' refuses to actually fight, he goes looking for answers. Starting with online training videos, Danny becomes immersed in the Blitzer world – and discovers a dangerous secret about the blitzers' true purpose...

Genre: Thriller, science fiction

Key Themes: Online toxicity, friendship, new tech

152 pages



Always Angel

By Kimberly Whittam

A powerful, emotive story about school, friendships and finding your voice. Branded a troublemaker, Angel has so many worries buzzing around her brain, sometimes everything spirals out of control. Can she find a way to show everyone who she really is before she runs out of chances?

Genre: Real-life drama

Key Themes: Foster care, mental health, friendships

240 pages



The Doomsday Club

By Kevin Moran

A page-turning supernatural adventure. Conan, Jack, Yash and Jerry are stuck in detention when they witness a monstrous looking creature emerge from a portal. An evil force has summoned the creature – can the boys overcome their differences and work together to stop this ancient being from destroying the world?

Genre: Quest, horror

Key Themes: Mythology, monsters, friendships

272 pages



People Like Stars

By Patrice Lawrence

An intricately woven story about fractured families, growing up, and facing challenge. Ayrton, Stanley and Senna don't know each other, but a potentially explosive secret connects them together. As each of them begins piecing together the puzzle of their families' pasts, their lives and futures collide.

Genre: Real-life drama, mystery

Key Themes: Family, mental health, challenges

304 pages



Cringe Club

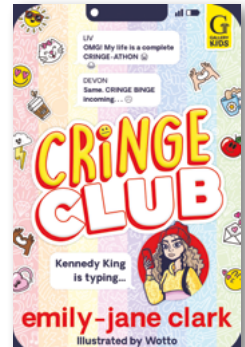
By Emily-Jane Clark and Wotto

A funny, highly relatable story about friends, school and fitting in, written entirely in phone messages. Kennedy and her friends face the most cringe-worthy of situations as they navigate new schools, new friends and frenemies – sharing everything with each other in their 'Cringe Club' chat.

Genre: Funny, diary

Key Themes: School, friendships, identity

352 pages



A Dog Called Hero

By Katy Birchall

A multi-layered mystery that keeps you guessing. When a priceless diamond is stolen in the middle of the celebrity party her mum is catering, Haley is determined to find the thief. With help from her former police-dog Hero, can she solve the mystery of how it was done?

Genre: Mystery, crime

Key Themes: Grief (death of a parent), belonging, family

400 pages



Unbelievable Football: Five-Minute Amazing True Stories

By Matt Oldfield and Ollie Mann

A collection of short, real-life tales about football. From surprising football heroes and incredible comebacks to the worst red cards and dirtiest football tricks, these true stories are full of sports action, drama and fantastic football knowledge to discover.

Genre: Nonfiction, short stories

Key Themes: Football, community

272 pages



Dead Yard: Seeds of Doom

By P. J. Killburn and Markia Jenai

A fun paranormal adventure-mystery. Jermain must re-evaluate his holiday plans when he starts being haunted by his Great Uncle Carl. And that's not even the strangest thing that's happening right now – something supernatural has arrived in town. Can Carl and Jermain stop it from taking over?

Genre: Adventure, funny

Key Themes: Ghosts and spirits, family, mystery-solving

208 pages



Odd Animals Out

By Ben Hoare and Asia Orlando

This dip-in-and-out, photographic fact book features animals that love to stand out from the crowd. Did you know there's a vegetarian shark? A snake that can fly? And a penguin that prefers sun to snow? Discover nature's rule-breakers, what makes them different, and why.

Genre: Nonfiction

Key Themes: Nature, facts, celebrating difference

80 pages



Wildlands

By Brogen Murphy

A pacey adventure-survival story, set in a future Britain where acres of land have been rewilded. Astrid and Indie are in big trouble: stranded in the Wildlands, with no signal and limited resources. Can they survive the multiple dangers ahead and find a way home?

Genre: Adventure, survival

Key Themes: Environment, family, identity (donor-conception)

416 pages



Birdie

By J. P. Rose

An emotive story about belonging. Set in the 1950s, Birdie is made to feel an outsider when she arrives at her new home in a rural village. Her only friend is a lonely pony, but his future is in jeopardy. Can Birdie find a way to save him?

Genre: Real-life drama, animals

Key Themes: Kinship care, racial discrimination, courage

256 pages



Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies

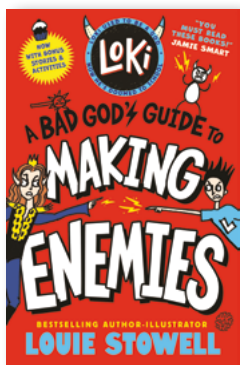
By Louie Stowell

The hilarious school diary of trickster god Loki. Banished to Earth in the body of a teenage boy, Loki is supposed to be learning "moral improvement" – something that is proving much more difficult than he expected, especially given his special talent for causing trouble and making enemies...

Genre: Diary, funny

Key Themes: School, friendship, Norse mythology

272 pages



Murder Academy: Lessons in Death

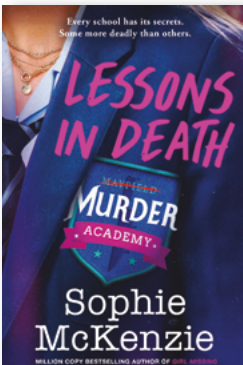
By Sophie McKenzie

A school murder mystery with lots of peril. Georgia has just found her teacher's dead body. But then the body disappears and nobody believes her. Certain he was murdered and it's being covered up, can she find the evidence to prove what she saw – and find the murderer?

Genre: Crime, mystery

Key Themes: Friendship, school, danger

240 pages



InvestiGators: Case Files

By John Patrick Green, Steve Behling and Chris Fenoglio

A fun and funny graphic novel with six crime cases to solve.

Famous alligator detectives Mango and Brash have a brand new gadget to help them collect clues – the 'G.R.I.D.' – but can you piece the clues together and solve the crimes before the Gators can?

Genre: Graphic novel, funny

Key Themes: Crime, mystery, problem-solving

208 pages



Avalanche

By Simon Fox

A high-stakes, action-packed thriller. Tom thought a luxury ski resort would be a dream holiday. But then ruthless mercenaries storm the remote chalet, kidnap his mum, and trigger an avalanche. Now it's a race against time to stop the mercenaries getting what they want...

Genre: Action, thriller

Key Themes: Danger, tech, family

288 pages



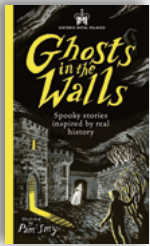
More great books

If you loved this year's Bookbuzz Secondary books, why not check these titles out?

Ghosts and Horror



Demon Hunters: Soul Feeder
by Jennifer Killick



Ghosts in the Walls
by Various

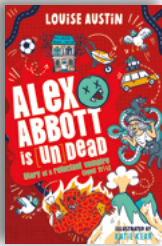


Whispering Hollow
by Rachel Burge

Funny



You and Me and the Peanut Butter Beast
by Andy Griffiths



Alex Abbott is Undead
by Louise Austin

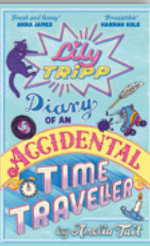


Minotaur Boy
by Shane Hegarty

Friends and Family



Nate Yu's Blast from the Past
by Maisie Chan



Lily Tripp: Diary of an Accidental Time Traveller
by Amelia Tait

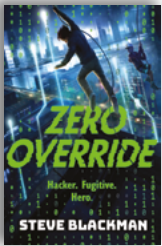


The Summer My Wishes Came True
by Radhika Sanghani

Action and Thriller



New You For Ever
by Steve Cole



Zero Override
by Steve Blackman



Rusthead
by Ross MacKenzie

Real Life



Big Words
by Luke Palmer



Runaways
by E.L. Norry

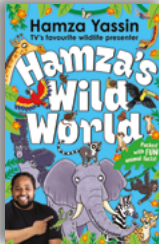


Like a Brother
by Nathanael Lessore

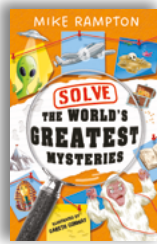
Non-Fiction



Shoot for the Stars
by Danielle Brown

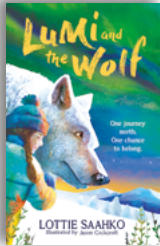


Hamza's Wild World
by Hamza Yassin



Solve the World's Greatest Mysteries
by Mike Rampton

Adventure



Lumi and the Wolf
by Lottie Saahko

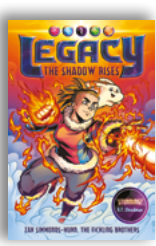


The Girl Who Raced the World
by Nat Harrison



Questers Academy: The Box of Locks
by Sam Hay

Fantasy and Magic



Legacy: The Shadow Rises
by Zak Simmonds-Hurn & The Fickling Brothers



Kamizen: Fortress of Lost Memories
by William Yamaguchi Dobson



The World of Skandar: The First Unicorn Rider
by A.F. Steadman



Even more great books!

At BookTrust, we review a new book every day of the year and develop programmes like **Bookspark**, which provides registered schools with **40 fantastic books and resources for Key Stage 3 shared reading**. Learn more about Bookspark and **explore more books with our Bookfinder** by scanning the QR code or visiting: booktrust.org.uk/secondary-schools





Nicky,
English Teacher, Red House School

“ Bookbuzz Secondary creates this kind of portal to books they might be interested in. Knowing the books are from the right age category is helpful. ”

“ With Year Eights, that’s where you get that dip, when they stop reading. Bookbuzz Secondary keeps that momentum going. It means they’re not just getting a book in Year Seven, but in Year Eight as well. ”

Becky,
English Teacher, Red House School