We hope that our KS3 recommended reading lists have been useful to many parents and students. With Christmas on the horizon we have made some additions for each year group (although all of them are accessible and interesting to any KS3 student).

They are not all new titles but are based on books that have a growing reputation with our own library regulars as well as teachers, librarians and awards shortlists. I hope you find something on here to enjoy. I recently read King of Nothing myself after a student recommendation and loved it.

Year 7

***Impossible Creatures* - Katherine Rundell**

When Christopher discovers a hidden archipelago populated by mythical creatures, he embarks on a quest to save a fading magical world. An ambitious fantasy adventure combining imagination, humour and environmental themes.

***The Clockwork Conspiracy* - Sam Sedgman**

When a priceless mechanical artefact is stolen, two young investigators uncover a mystery involving clocks, codes and a secret society. A fast-paced adventure packed with puzzles and twists.

***Steady For This* - Nathanael Lessore**

Shaun dreams of becoming a rap superstar, but things become complicated when his music unexpectedly attracts attention. A funny and heartfelt story about friendship, confidence and finding your place.

***The Wilderness of Girls* - Madeline Claire Franklin**

A mystery centred on friendship, trauma and survival when a group of girls emerge from years of isolation in the wilderness. A thought-provoking novel exploring memory and belonging.

Year 8

***Seven Million Sunflowers* - Malcolm Duffy**

Inspired by real events surrounding the Chernobyl disaster, this moving novel explores loss, resilience and hope through the lives of young people affected by tragedy. Winner of the Older Readers category of the 2025 Children's Book Award.

***Play* - Luke Palmer**

Four friends navigate the pressures of adolescence, loyalty and masculinity as their lives begin to take very different paths. A compelling contemporary novel with strong discussion value.

***The Door of No Return* - Kwame Alexander**

Set in eighteenth-century Ghana, this verse novel follows Kofi as his life is transformed by events beyond his control. A powerful and accessible historical story exploring identity, family and freedom.

***The Final Year* - Matt Goodfellow**

Told in verse, this emotionally powerful novel follows Nate as he faces family difficulties and the challenges of growing up. A highly accessible but deeply affecting read.

Year 9

***King of Nothing* - Nathanael Lessore**

Anton enjoys his reputation at school until an unlikely friendship challenges his assumptions about popularity, kindness and identity. Warm, funny and sharply observed.

***All That's Left in the World* - Erik J. Brown**

After a devastating pandemic changes the world, two teenagers must rely on each other to survive. A tense post-apocalyptic adventure that balances action with themes of hope and trust.

***The Reappearance of Rachel Price* - Holly Jackson**

Sixteen years after a woman vanishes without trace, she suddenly returns. As the mystery unravels, her daughter begins to question everything she thought she knew.

***Nothing More to Tell* - Karen M. McManus**

Four years after a beloved teacher's murder, new evidence emerges and old secrets begin to surface. A gripping thriller from one of YA fiction's most popular mystery writers.