Beyond the Bard

**Young Adult:**

**Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman - a re-working of Romeo and Juliet in which young friends Sephy and Callum are kept apart by class divisions.

**Ophelia** by Lisa Klein - a re-imagining of the story of Hamlet and Ophelia.

**The Fool’s Girl** by Celia Rees – Continuing story after the end of Twelfth Night following the (mis)fortunes of Viola’s daughter Violette, as well as characters from the original play.

**King of Shadows** by Susan Cooper – modern boy actor time slips back to Shakespeare’s day while visiting London with an American Theatre Company.

**Exposure** by Mal Peet - footballer Otello is a national hero until he is wrongly implicated in a scandal that could change his life and that of those around him.

**Adult:**

**John Shakespeare Series** by Rory Clements – William’s brother John is chief intelligencer in the secret service of Sir Francis Walsingham.

**Beatrice and Benedick** by Marina Fiorato - It seems that the witty lovers Beatrice and Benedick, had a previous youthful love affair which ended bitterly. But how did they meet, why did the part, and what bought them together again?

**The Final Act of Mr Shakespeare** by Robert Winder - In the spring of 1613 Mr William Shakespeare, a gentleman farmer in Warwickshire, returns to London. It is a ceremonial visit; he has no further theatrical ambitions. But the city is still reeling from the terrorist panic of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, and fate soon forces him to take up his pen again.
His Dark Lady by Victoria Lamb – London, 1583. When young, aspiring playwright William Shakespeare encounters Lucy Morgan, one of Queen Elizabeth I's ladies-in-waiting, his life is turned upside-down as the two fall passionately in love. He declares Lucy the inspiration for his work, but what secret is Will hiding from his muse?

Shylock is My Name by Howard Jacobson – re-telling of The Merchant of Venice

Vinegar Girl: the Taming of the Shrew retold by Anne Rice

Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett - Pratchett’s Discworld with a Shakespearean twist, featuring the witches from Macbeth.

A Midsummer Night’s Steampunk by Scott E. Tarbet - a steampunk sci-fi retelling featuring Victorian technology, mistaken identities, love triangles and deadly peril.

The Tragedy of Arthur by Arthur Phillips - a novel about a lost 1597 Shakespeare folio called The Tragedy of King Arthur and a memoir on how it was found.

The Serpent of Venice by Christopher Moore - a satire starring Fool Pocket as the hero of the piece.

The Gap of Time by Jeanette Winterson - a contemporary retelling of The Winter’s Tale.

Dark Amelia by Sally O’ Reilly - Aemilia Bassano, a favourite with the queen, finds herself torn between the affections of Lord Chamberlain and young playwright William Shakespeare.

The Madness of Love by Katharine Davies - Twelfth Night transported to rural Wales.

Shakespeare’s Mistress by Karen Harper - a look at the idea of Shakespeare’s secret love affair before marrying Anne Hathaway.

The Virgin’s Lover by Philippa Gregory - a look at the politics, history and intrigue of the Elizabethan court, which formed the backdrop to Shakespeare’s plays.
To Defy a King by Elizabeth Chadwick - return to the period covered by Shakespeare’s King John and the lead up to the signing of the Magna Carta.

The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey – a convalescing detective endeavours, with the aid of a student, to find out the true character of Richard III. Shakespeare’s characterisation is the starting point in his research.

Azincourt by Bernard Cornwell - a historical novel focusing on the Battle of Agincourt, which featured in Shakespeare’s Henry V.

A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley - King Lear set in a farm in Iowa.

Dead Father’s Club by Matt Haig - a modern take on Hamlet in which Philip Noble is an 11-year-old in crisis.

Antony and Cleopatra by Colleen McCullough - power and scandal, political spin, romance and fate all combine in this famous love story which was also the subject of one of Shakespeare’s plays.

The Talented Mr Ripley by Patricia Highsmith - a psychological thriller echoing the story of Macbeth.