

## Reading Round Up

Well, what another busy term it has been for Etone's Library, with so many events and celebrations of reading taking place: World Book Day, our Scholastic book fair and several competitions, to name a few. Pupils have now borrowed over 1,170 books during this academic year so far, and our most popular books at the moment are the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series.

### Scholastic Book Fair



Etone Library recently held its second bookfair of this academic year. The fair ran from Thursday, 13th March until Tuesday, 18th March 2025. Parents/carers were invited into School to come along and browse, with refreshments provided. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed coming along to the fair and purchasing their chosen book(s). It was a great success with sales of over £370, earning us over £90 in rewards for Etone. These rewards can now be spent on new books for the Library. Our next fair will be held next academic year in November.

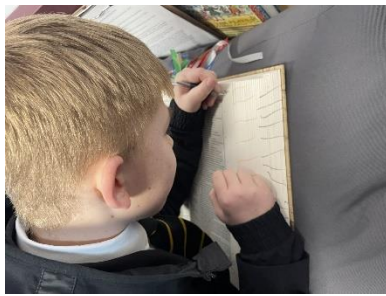


### Shakespeare's First Folio Finale

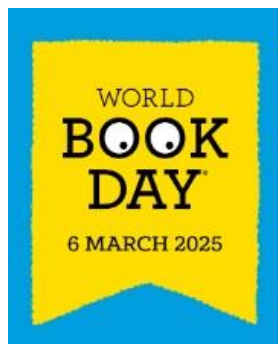
As you will be aware from previous Reading Round Ups, Etone Library has been very fortunate to have on display 'Shakespeare's First Folio Facsimile'. The First Folio is the first published collection of Shakespeare's plays, produced seven years after his death, titled 'Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories & Tragedies'. This edition grouped the plays into the iconic categories - comedies, histories, and tragedies - for the first time.



This first folio facsimile has visited 26 libraries across Warwickshire. Etone College is the only School that has had the privilege of hosting it. This has now been returned to Warwickshire School Library Service, ready for it to make its way to Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-Upon-Avon. During the time it was here, Etone pupils were invited to see the folio and annotate any section which had a meaning for them e.g. maybe the first Shakespeare play they read. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience, annotating their favourite sections and becoming a small part of history.



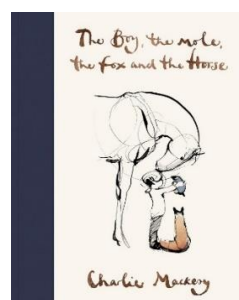
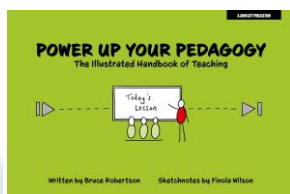
## World Book Day – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025



### Staff Book Club

Our World Book Day day began with the launch of Staff Book Club for this term, Miss Streza, Mr Monro, and Mrs Kaye-Shepherd all won books with Mrs Tucker, Miss Bali, and Mr Hope winning bookmarks and chocolate. Massive well done!

This term's books were: 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy, a book of hope in uncertain times and 'Power Up Your Pedagogy, The Illustrated Handbook of Teaching' by Bruce Robertson.





## Footy and Booky

We then dashed straight into 'Footy and Booky' - our team of 32 breezed their way through the two rounds of the National Quiz. Their knowledge was fantastic and it was wonderful to see them so engaged, with many teams scoring 100%!



## The Big Book Quiz

The Big Book Quiz saw a momentous 95 pupils taking part. Rounds included 'Book covers', 'Guess the Book', 'Which film?' and 'Reading Records'. Pupils' guesses for the size of the smallest book in the world, the value of the most expensive, and how many words in the longest showed excellent logical thinking. Well done to Centaur who took first 8C2 (Tegan, Lola, Jessica, and Evie) and second 7C2 (Erin, Freya, Effie, Blossom) place.





### Escape Room

At breaktime, Express block was buzzing, there were two rooms of 'Literary Escape Rooms'. Pupils worked in teams of 2 to work out the answers which led them crack the code to open the escape room. Massive well done to our winners (Eleanor and Eloise).

### Staff Trail

Throughout the day, pupils followed a trail to collect key facts from dressed up staff, from The Hungry Caterpillar to Scooby Doo - Etone had it all! Our lucky winner was Megan– well done!



### Mini Books

Also, at break in the Library we held a 'Create a Mini Book' competition in the library. Pupils could recreate a mini front cover of their favourite book or design a cover for a new book idea. Over 30 amazing entries were received. A big well done to our winner Mikaela and runners up Harvey, Zenia & Nustafa – well done!







**Mini Books & Staff Trail Winners & Runner Ups**



## Sixth Form

It was wonderful that our sixth form were involved too, undertaking 'The Big Mini Book Hunt'. The winning student (AJ) found an amazing 107 miniature books in the building! Well done to all who won prizes.



## Snuggle Down

At the end of the day, pupils were invited to snuggle down with cakes and hot chocolate in the library to listen to Mrs Whitmore and Mrs Leftwich-Lloyd's favourite stories. They listened with rapt attention to the openings of 'Northern Lights' and 'The Silver Sword' - we hope we have encouraged them to read the whole books.



## Design a National Book Token Competition

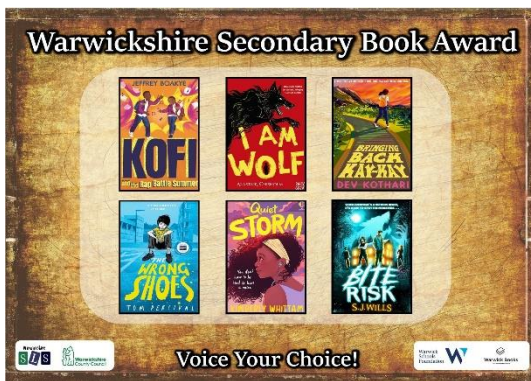
During World Book Day and the weeks following during March pupils have been invited to enter a competition sponsored by National Book Tokens to design a book token around this year's theme 'Read Your Way'. There are some amazing prizes on offer, 1<sup>st</sup> prize is £350 in book tokens for the winning pupil's School (2<sup>nd</sup> prize £200) and £100 for the winning pupil (2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50). Some of our Etone pupils have submitted wonderful entries. Good luck to them all. Winners will be announced in May 2025.







### Warwickshire Secondary Book Award



We delighted to have taken part in the recent Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards. Pupils have been working hard during February and March reading and reviewing the 6 shortlist books, meeting each week to discuss the books and making our final vote.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, our Warwickshire Secondary Book Award group, 'The Etoners', were fortunate to be visited by Angela Edwards from Warwickshire's School Library Service. Angela kindly came to talk to our group about the 6 shortlisted books and gain our views and opinions on each book, our likes and dislikes. The Etoners really did us proud during the visit, actively engaging in the discussions around the books and openly sharing their thoughts. Well done to all members!





### Celebration Meeting

During our final celebration meeting each pupil who has taken part received a certification of appreciation, along with a small gift as a big thank you for their efforts in taking part with this award. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this celebratory event.

Pupils involved were asked to write down what they had enjoyed about being involved with this book award and one word to describe taking part. Below are some of their responses:

“I have enjoyed reading a few books I wouldn’t normally read.”

“I have enjoyed group discussions and learning different plots and stories. It was very fun”

“Absolutely everything, and reading.”

“I enjoyed reading *Quiet Storm*, it was very relatable and I loved sharing my ideas with my peers.”

“I have enjoyed reading different books and discussing them. I have also enjoyed meeting new people.”

“Amazing”

“Astonishing”

“Fantastic”

“Exciting”

“Special”







## The Award Ceremony

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, we had the privilege of attending the final award ceremony for the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award. A group of pupils who have been taking part travelled to Warwick school to see the winning author announced.

This year's winner was Kimberly Whittam for her book 'Quiet Storm'. Our pupils were extremely pleased as this was the author we had selected as our winner here at Etone.

The four authors who attended gave inspirational speeches covering many topics, including the importance of reading and libraries; how we are all good at something, we may just not yet know what this is and, how we can overcome adversity and difficult times. Etone pupils really did our school proud with both the attention they gave to each of the authors and their impeccable behaviour. Well done! To top this event off they also were also able to speak to the authors and get copies of books signed for Etone Library. What a wonderful way to come to the end of this award.





## BookFlix

Bookflix is proving to be a bit hit with pupils on Tuesday break times. Pupils have finished reading their first book, 'The Hunger Games', and have enjoyed completing many different activities including making bookmarks, designing a survival kit for a Hunger Games contestant and making posters in support of the main character, Katniss. Overall, pupils gave the book 5 stars and said it was thoroughly engaging.





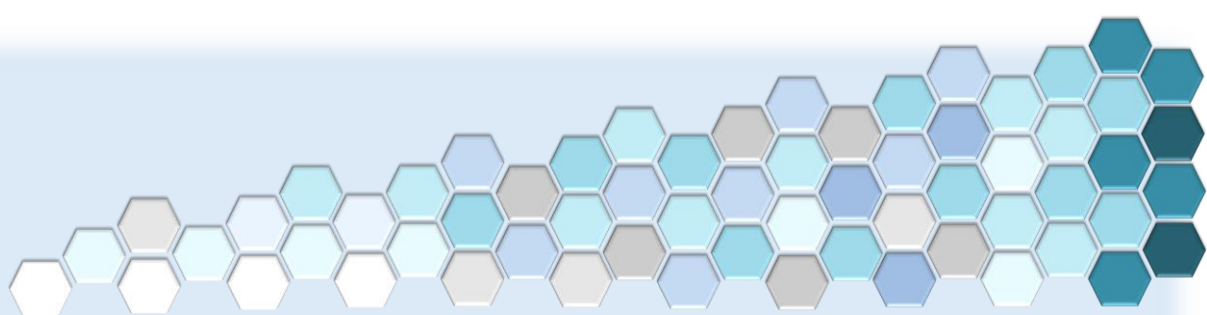
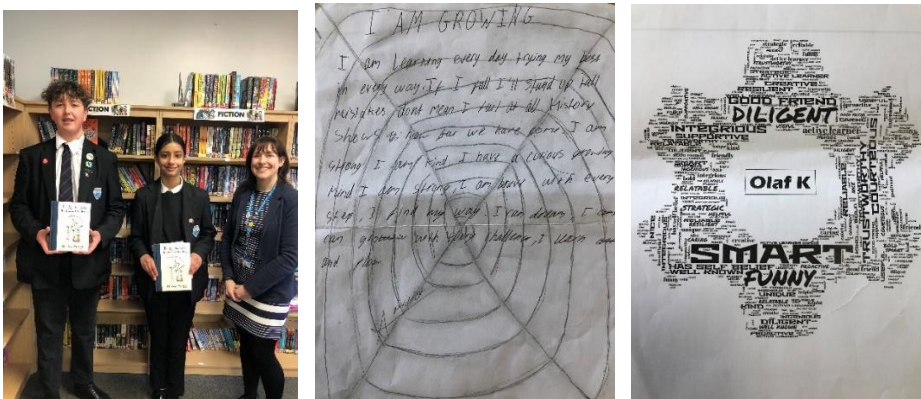
They have finished off their reading by watching the film version and picking it apart in comparison. So, what was the final verdict: book or film? Pupils couldn't make their minds up as to which was better. Miss Benfell (who runs Bookflix) said she had to agree, they are both equally great. It's not very often she can say that! They've just started to read their second book, 'The Knife of Never Letting Go', and pupils are hooked already. Grace said, 'it's like a totally different world and I think Todd is going to be a real hero'. They'll have to wait and see.



### Mental Health Competition Winners

During Children's Mental Health Week our pupils had the opportunity to design their own positive affirmation quote based on the book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy.

Our winner was Zenia, who was awarded with a £5 book fair voucher, a book mark and a chocolate bar and our runner up was Olaf who also won a prize. Well done to them both!





## Easter Egg Trail and Easter Reading Challenges



From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, pupils are being invited to the Library to have a go at our 'Easter Egg Trail' competition. There they will find Easter eggs in the basket, each with a clue, question or anagram. Entrants then need to complete an entry form to be in with a chance of winning a prize: a £10 Amazon voucher, along with an Easter egg, plus runners up prizes.

Or why not have a go at our two Easter reading challenges over the two-week holiday. Collect a form from the library or Café / Hall at lunchtime.

1. Read the poem 'Trees' by Jan Edmunds and the questions.
2. Read a book of your choice and submit a review.



## Carnegie Book Award



The Carnegie awards are the UK's longest running and best loved book awards for children and young people. The awards celebrate outstanding achievement in children's writing and illustration and are unique in that they are judged by children's librarians, with the Shadower's Choice Award being voted for by children and young people.



Etone College are delighted to announce that they are taking part in this Shadowing Choice Award. Throughout March to June, a group of our pupils will be reading the 8 shortlisted books. Between May and June, Shadower's Choice voting will be open for us to be able to put forward our vote and finally we will be able to watch the Medal and Shadowers' Choice award winners' ceremony via livestream on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### **Oxplore Essay Competition 2025**



Oxplore are delighted to announce the launch of the 2025 Essay Competition for students at non-selective state secondary school across the UK.

They are inviting students from **years 7-9** to write an **800-word response** and students from **years 10-13** to write a **2,000-word response** to the following essay question:

- **Do we have enough?**

They are encouraging responses which approach these questions from a variety of perspectives – History, Philosophy, Politics, Economics, Science, Law or any other subject or discipline. Entrants just need to remember to answer the question!

All entries should be emailed to [explore@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:explore@admin.ox.ac.uk) by **11:59 BST on 16th May 2025**. Please include your **name**, the **name of your school** and your **school year**.

#### **Where to start:**

Think about defining the terms of the question. Who is the 'we' about whom you are going to write? Is it humanity, the country, your community? And what is it of which we may or may not have enough?

Check out [explore.org](http://explore.org) (The Home of Big Questions) – maybe '[Can money buy happiness?](#)', '[Are humans ruining the earth?](#)' or '[Can we end poverty?](#)' might provide you with some interesting perspectives to pursue.



## Criteria

- the relevance of points made to the essay title
- the development and structure of your argument, which considers multiple points of view and reaches a personal conclusion – originality will be rewarded, though not at the expense of logic and plausibility.
- your inclusion of supporting evidence to build a persuasive account
- your clarity of language and expression as opposed to inappropriate use of jargon – sometimes simplicity is good, as is brevity!
- your creative understanding of the essay title/task.

For further information please follow the attached link

<https://outreachonlineblog.wordpress.com/2025/03/28/big-oxplore-essay-competition-2025/>

## New Books

Etone's Year 7 & 8 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying the wonderful series 'Little People, Big Dreams'. These books allow pupils to discover details around the lives of key figures throughout history, from creatives and activists to scientists and politicians. Told as a story, with a facts and photos section at the back, every story begins with that person as a small child. Containing figures from many different experiences, backgrounds and journeys.

Pupils have been reading, learning and quizzing and these books have become a very popular addition to our Library.





## Accelerated Reader Update

Here are the current house competition results:



1971



1939



1552



1342

**Year 7 Most Quizzed Class – 7A/E3 – 629 quizzes & 7b/E2 – 456 quizzes**

**Year 8 Most Quizzed Class – 8A/E3 – 414 quizzes & 8B/E1 – 439 quizzes**

## Word Millionaires

Etone are proud to announce we have four more Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires, taking our total to **TEN**. Evie, Lola, Kristy & Thomas have read **over one million words** this academic year. **Evie, Lola, Kristy & Thomas were recently awarded** with a certificate and a book of their choice. Well done to you all!



## Blue Peter Badges

Applications can still be accepted. Pupils can obtain an application form from Mrs Whitmore in the Library or during their weekly Library lesson.



## Sneak – Peek

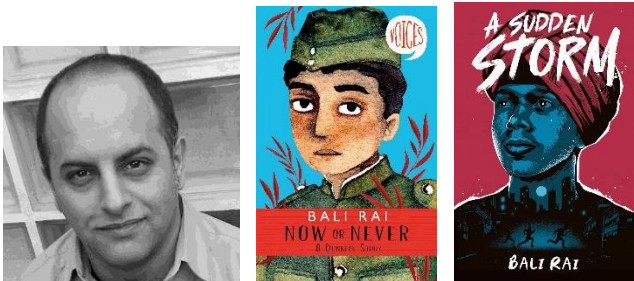


If you have enjoyed this reading round-up, here is a small teaser of what is coming up next term.

### Easter Competitions/Reading Challenges

Find out the results of our 'Easter Egg Trail' competition, along with our Easter reading challenges, with our winner and runners up being announced.

### Bali Rai – Author Visit



During May, Etone College is fortunate to be inviting Bali Rai in Etone College to run an author talk and some creative writing workshops with our Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Bali Rai was born in Leicester where he grew up in a multicultural community dreaming of playing football for Liverpool FC, being Bob Marley or becoming a writer. He writes the books he would have enjoyed as a teenager and *Rani and Sukh* is a set-text for GCSE English. His novel *Killing Honour* won the North East Teenage Book Award and was described as “utterly compelling” by *The Bookseller*; *Now or Never* was shortlisted for the Little Rebels Prize in 2020.

We are very much look forward to Bali visit. Watch this space for an update and photos.



## 18 Before 18

We are still spotlighting the 18 books our pupils should read as part of their reading journey from Year 7 to 13. These books range from 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian, 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak to 'Girl in Pieces' by Kathleen Glasgow. Pupils are able to write a review or submit a video for a chance to be entered in our half term draw to win a free book. All of our chosen books are available to borrow from Etone library.



Etone College  
**18 BEFORE 18**

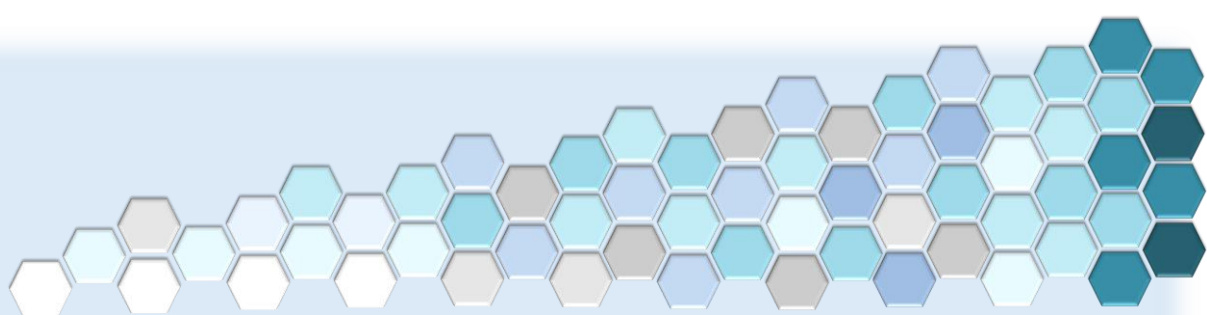


Our recommendation for your reading journey from Year 7-13

<p>Write a review or submit a video review to be entered into our prize draw to win a free book- every half term</p>			
KS3 -	KS4 -		
KS5	★ Transition read - find me in the cafe	★	Form Read

## Partnership with Nuneaton Library

As part of our commitment to engaging Etone pupils in reading for pleasure, we would like to make you aware of the excellent library facilities available at Nuneaton Library. These facilities are available beyond the school day, at weekends, and throughout the school holidays:





Day	Opening hours
Monday	10am to 6pm
Tuesday	9am to 6pm
Wednesday	9am to 6pm
Thursday	9am to 6pm
Friday	9am to 5pm
Saturday	9am to 4pm
Sunday	10am to 2pm

We would strongly advise Etone pupils join Nuneaton Library to make full use of facilities, which includes books, computers and iPads. The library also has study areas where pupils could complete study and homework. Membership is **free of charge** and can be completed online:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jointhelibrary>

Membership of the library also brings free use of the app. 'Borrow Box' which enables the loan of eBooks and audiobooks **free of charge**. The app can be downloaded onto phones and tablets.

