

Reading Round Up

With only a four week term, we have still managed to achieve a great deal! Etone pupils have now borrowed over 1,220 books during this academic year so far, and our most popular books continue to be the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series, along with the Usborne animal series.

Bali Rai – Author Visit – Year 7 and 8



We were delighted to welcome author, **Bali Rai** to Etone on Tuesday, 13th May. Bali is an internationally renowned author so we were delighted to have secured a visit by him. His visit was focused on the benefits of reading, and how to create interesting characters by showing rather than telling readers about them. This further supported the breadth of literacy work that we do in school and was a stimulating experience for pupils.

Prior to Bali's visit, all Year 7 and 8 pupils read an extract from 'Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story', one of Bali's novels which is a moving and insightful account of

World War 2 narrated by Private Fazal Khan, a young Muslim soldier in Company 32 of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps



Bali started his day by delivering a talk to Year 7 about the three superpowers of reading. Readers develop critical skills for living in the modern world:

- Intelligence
- Creativity
- Empathy





He then delivered three workshops in which he challenged pupils to think about their own identity. Pupils created a 'human pizza' selecting four key elements of their lives which make them who they are. During the last two weeks of this term we launched our competition based on Bali's writing workshop to write an introduction of yourself as a character using 'show not tell'. The prizes for the winners will be signed books.



As always, we were incredibly impressed with Etone pupils' warm welcome, intelligent engagement, and spontaneous thanks.

Following his visit Bali himself has said 'I had a lovely day with you all yesterday and would be very happy to return next year.'

Inspired by Bali, we are now running a 'Me as a Character' competition – pick your entry form up from the library!

Me as A Character competition

This competition encourages you to:

- Reflect on your own identity;
- Imagine yourself as a character in a story;
- 'show not tell' the reader about yourself.

Prizes: signed books, bookmarks, chocolate



Name _____
Form _____

Me as a Character Competition

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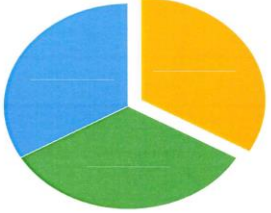
Prizes: signed books, bookmarks, chocolate

Planning

What makes you, you? Select three things about yourself. They could be:

- Foods that are important to you – *why are they important? How do they make you feel? What do they make you think of?*
- Places that have meaning – *where do you like to go? What do you do there? How does it make you feel? Who do you go there with?*
- Special people – *who is important? Why? What do you do with that person? How do they make you feel?*
- Hobbies or activities – *what do you like to do? Why? Who with? How does it make you feel?*
- Or anything else you can think of ...

My human Pizza – Three Key things important to me



Name _____
Form _____

Now, use your plan to write your introduction. Remember **show don't tell**:

For example,

TELL

She ran down the road. She loved running.

➔

SHOW

The light in her eyes, grin on her face, and glow drew the eye; she was running and the joy and freedom she felt were obvious.

Your turn:

Staff Book Club

Our winners for the Summer term staff book club were Mr Botham (fiction) and Mr Bonner (pedagogy). Well done to them both!

The Summer term fiction book is Barnes and Noble's Book of the Year for 2023, The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store's by James McBride, a powerful and engrossing story of prejudice, community and hope is now set to take the UK by storm.

The pedagogy book is Teaching One Pagers by Jamie Clark, One-pagers are ultra-concise, A4-sized summaries that share important ideas about good teaching. In this practical volume, Jamie Clark presents more than 55 evidence-informed one-pagers that help educators reflect on their practice, build pedagogical knowledge, and prompt professional conversations with colleagues.



Easter Trail and Easter Reading Challenges Results



During April and the first two week of May pupils were invited to the Library to have a go at our 'Easter Egg Trail' competition. With over 50 entries, our lucky winners were Grace and Layla who won an Amazon voucher and Easter egg. Runners up included Hazel, Rosie, Effie and Nusta who all received an Easter egg. Well done to you all!



Warhammer Club Library

We are pleased to announce that our in Warhammer Club have created there very own Library dedicated to this hobby. The club have ensured they are giving students the option to come and read if they want to learn more about the lore and the hobby.

The Library covers Key Stage 3 with Adventures books, which our local Warhammer store kindly donated a complete set of (6 for fantasy and 6 for Sci-Fi). Key Stage 4 have some more challenging books, checked beforehand, kindly donated by staff. Then we also have the 'Black Library' sample books from the store events (free from the stores, but these were donated in bulk by both the Nuneaton and Birmingham stores) and a collection of White Dwarf magazines (donated by Mr McKenna and some from the Nottingham store), we are featured as a school in White Dwarf issue 491 which we have on display and other literature such as graphic novels, model collection magazines, etc.



Year 8 Pupil Voice

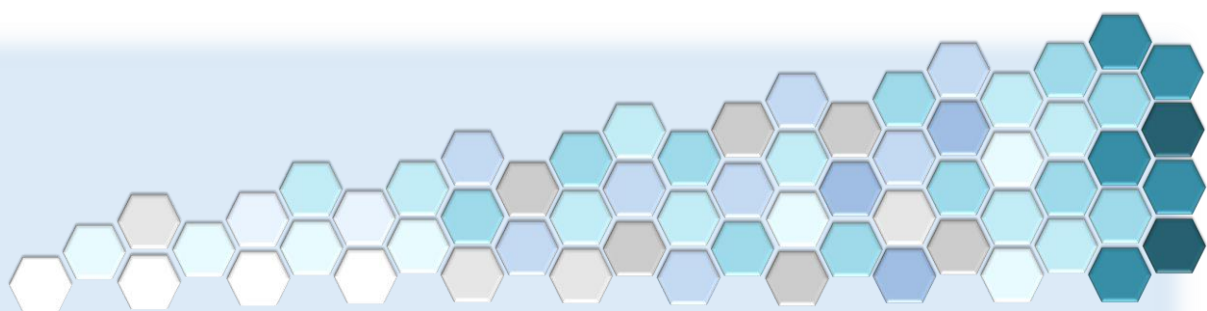
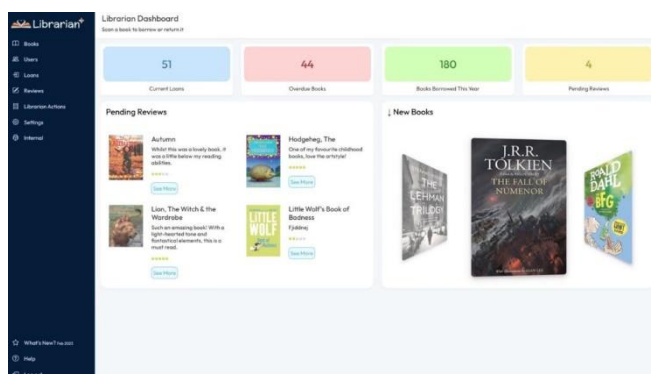
We regularly ask our pupils what they think about their experience at Etone College. This half term, we have asked Year 8 pupils to gain their thoughts and ideas around reading at Etone. Etone pupils gave a huge range of reasons why they read, and they valued the opportunity to do so. They gave a broad range of examples of reading that they do in school and explained that they had enjoyed form time reading this year including values booklets to “learn about role models” / “I liked the different stories about different people”. Pupils were very complimentary about the library: “I love the variety of books in the library.” / “The library has computers, loads of books, and plenty of space.” It was great to hear about pupils’ favourite books and a few gave us some new recommendations as well.

Newspapers & Magazines

We are also fortunate to have received some donations of backdated magazines and newspaper that our pupils have been enjoying reading alongside our monthly subscriptions. From football to gaming to how things work, these have really been a welcome addition to the Library.

Library Visit

During the last week of term, our Librarian, Mrs Whitmore, had the pleasure of visiting the library at Wednesfield Academy, another Matrix Academy Trust school. During the visit, she was able to look around the Library and share ideas with their Librarian. More importantly she was able to gain an insight into the Library system they use, Librosoft. We are delighted to announce that Etone College are installing this new system ready for September. This system has the capacity for pupils to log into the app on their phones to look at their current loans, data for the school and to explore our books catalogue.



Read Before You Leave


We will be launching a reading challenge entitled, 'Read before you Leave' through which we will challenge Etone pupils to read a list of books recommended by pupils, parents, staff, and Etone's community partners. We would like this list to represent quality fiction alongside key characters, places, and themes which would enrich, and delight. These books should be suitable for a reading audience between 11-16 years.

We are looking for book recommendations from pupils, parents and our local community! Any recommendations can be submitted by:

- Picking up a form from the library or Etone reception;
- Emailing Mrs D Whitmore (School Librarian) at dwhitmore@etonecollege.co.uk, with the title of the book(s), author(s) and the reasons for your recommendations, along with your name;


Completing the Microsoft for - <https://forms.office.com/e/WahzLfR5b>

We very much look forward to receiving these, the final decisions will be made by a diverse group including pupils, staff, and our community partners.



Etone College

READ BEFORE YOU LEAVE



Your recommendations for our reading journey from Year 7-13

We are looking for recommendations for books that you think every Etone pupil should read before they leave school. We plan to collate this list from recommendations from our school and local communities.

Please provide details of your chosen book below.

Title of Book _____

Author _____

Genre _____

Reasons for my recommendation

Recommended by _____



New Books

Once again, we have some great new reads here in Etone Library. With new names from the much-loved Little People Big Dreams series, to A Minecraft Movie and The Boy With The Big Decisions, which allows the reader to decide which way the story leads and ends. If any pupils have any suggestions of books they would like to see in the Library, Mrs Whitmore is more than happy to talk to pupils about these.



Accelerated Reader Update

Here are the current house competition results:



2395



2425



1976



1841

Year 7 Most Quizzed Class – 7A/E1 – 172 quizzes & 7b/E2 – 96 quizzes

Year 8 Most Quizzed Class – 8A/E4 – 73 quizzes & 8B/E3 – 125 quizzes

Speed Read Week

During the last week of this half term in our Library lessons, it was our Accelerated Reader Speed Reading Week. This is where pupils read and quiz on as many short reads and articles as they can, creating a real buzz around reading and quizzing with all classes hoping they will conquer and become one of the four top quizzed classes. Pupils have really risen to the challenge, we have been so impressed and many House Points, stickers, sweets and biscuits have been awarded. **This week Year 7 have read an amazing 761 books; Year 8 have read 655 books – a phenomenal achievement!**



**Speed Read
Week**



Word Millionaires

Etone are proud to announce we have two more Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires, taking our total to **TWELVE**. Aroush and Reuben have read **over one million words** this academic year. They have both chosen their books and they will be presented with these and a certificate after half term. Well done to you both! Photographs to follow in the next edition.

Blue Peter Badges

It is so lovely to see our pupils with Blue Peter Reading Badges on their lapels. Applications can still be accepted. Pupils can obtain an application form from Mrs Whitmore in the Library or during their weekly Library lesson.



Competitions 2025-2026 Coming Soon ...

We are building our reading calendar and challenges for next year. We are so excited to share our new events with you ...

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

Details on our upcoming: -

- **The LGBTQ+ trail**
- **The Big Etone Summer reading challenge**
- **The Big Etone Transition Challenge**

Watch this space!



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.

