

Reading Round Up

What a busy first half term! Welcome back to Etone Library. The library now has new longer opening times, 8am until 4.30pm Monday – Thursday and 8am – 4pm on a Friday. Pupils are welcome to come into the library both before and after School, this can be to look at the books we have on offer for them to borrow or to join us to complete homework. They are also welcome during break. Since the start of this academic year over 120 books have been loaned.

International Day of Literacy

On 8th September, Etone celebrated International Literacy Day; the day is celebrated annually and is to remind policy-makers, practitioners, and the public of the critical importance of literacy for creating more literate, just, peaceful, and sustainable society.

This year's theme was 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.'

To celebrate this year, Etone ran its first reading competition of this academic year. Pupils were invited into the library at breaktime to find as many 'mini' books as they could. This created a real buzz around reading, with pupils competing against each other to find the most 'mini' books and ultimately become the winner!

Our winner, finding 35 'mini' books was Esme. Our joint runners up, finding 34 books were Lottie, Isobel and Freya and finding 30 books, Harley. Well done to them all! Thank you to all those pupils who participated and help make this a really fun competition.



Roald Dahl Day - 13th September

Roald Dahl Story Day is celebrated every year on his birthday, the 13th of September, and people all over the world come together to celebrate the magic he brought to, and continues to bring, children everywhere.

This year would have been his 109th birthday. We celebrated in the library, with a display of some fun facts.

Pupils were asked to create a new word, just like Roald Dahl does, and draw a picture of it. We had words from guzpickle (meaning hungry) and churipul (meaning tired) to lilyhipswitch (meaning a cool person). After careful examination of the numerous creative entries, a winner was chosen. So, well done to Inaaya and runner up Maddie Mai, both in year 7.



Bookbuzz



Through Bookbuzz, organised by The Booktrust, all Year 7 and 8 pupils at Etone **choose and are gifted a book from a curated collection of 16 fantastic titles.**

During their Library lessons at the start of term, pupils heard from the authors as they pitched their books and had the opportunity to look at the actual books themselves before selecting their favourite book.



We were so excited to share this year's Bookbuzz selection with our pupils and see their enthusiasm in making their choice. Pupils have eagerly awaited the delivery of our order, asking our School Librarian, Mrs Whitmore, on a daily basis whether the books had arrived.

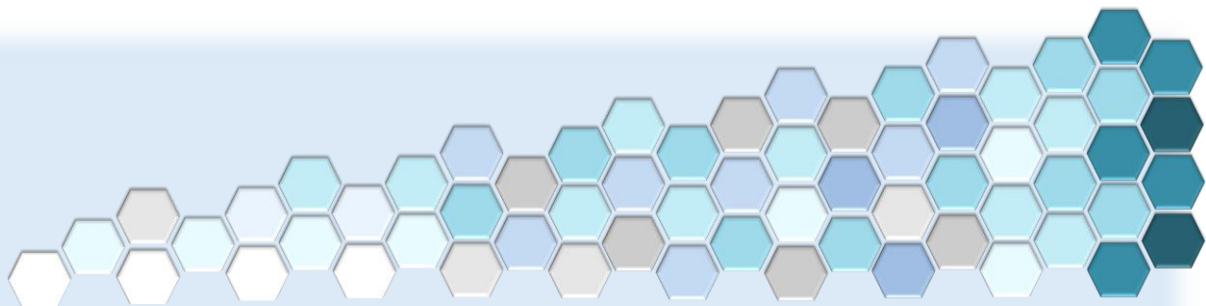
We were thrilled when the books arrived; there was a real 'buzz' around pupils receiving their books with many starting to read them straight away.

By the end of this half term almost 400 pupils will have received the book of their choice, with a special Etone College bookplate to take home and keep.



As part of Bookbuzz, Booktrust have launched their own competition to design their own bookmark. Their design can feature characters or scenes from their Bookbuzz book, share reading tips with other pupils or represent what reading enjoyment means to them. We can't wait to see the designs come up with!

Winning designs will feature in next year's Bookbuzz programme. The winner will also win £50 of book tokens; second and third place runners up will receive £30 of book tokens each; and all will win a bundle of books worth over £100 for their school.



Students can create their bookmark either by hand or digitally. Paper-based templates are available from the Library or digital templates can be downloaded via this link

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/teachers-schools/secondary-schools/bookbuzz-coordinator-area/bookbuzz-competition/>

The closing date for digital entries is **Friday 16 January**. Any postal entries must have been received by **Friday 23 January**.

Library Induction – What We Like About the Library

Year 7 & 8 pupils have all taken part in a Library induction / reintroduction lesson to familiarise them with opening hours, rules, books available, what we are currently reading at Etone etc. Here is what some of our pupils said they loved about the Library:

“I love it because there are many books to choose from.” – Humaira

“That all the books are really good and there is a book for everyone” – Savannah

“My favourite thing about the Library is how welcoming it is, even though it’s my first time I feel so welcome” - Willow

Damani Dennisur – Poet Visit – Friday 3rd October

On Friday 3rd October, Etone College were delighted to welcome poet Damani Dennisur to Etone College.

Damani Dennisur is a local poet based in Birmingham. He started his poetry journey aged 12, writing for black history month, nationwide poetry slams and local rap/writing competitions, within a few short years he was Birmingham's 7th Young Poet Laureate and his talent would put him in rooms he could only dream of.

Damani was so popular last year with Etone pupils that we asked him to return this year. After an exciting, interactive assembly with Year 11, Damani delivered hour long sessions to all pupils in Years 9 and 10. He performed some of his poems and talked about his authorial intent, a critical skill for English literature. There was also the opportunity for pupils to ask questions and meet him and obtain his autograph on a specially designed bookmark to celebrate his visit.





Open Evening – Book Raffle

We recently held our open evening for future potential pupils to come and have a look around Etone College. During this event, the library ran a variety of activities including: a scavenger hunt, book based wordsearches, and a book raffle. All pupils who visited the library received a raffle ticket for a chance to win a book. The titles available were 'Marcus Rashford, You are a Champion' and 'Rhythm and Poetry' by Karl Nova, both recommended school transition books. Over 80 raffle tickets were handed out over the evening, and our lucky winners were Harlow and Jake. Well done to them both!

Bookflix

Bookflix is proving to be a big 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.

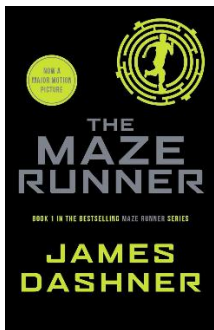
They are now moving onto to their next book, The Maze Runner by James Dasher. This is a multi million bestselling series and since its publication has been made into a major movie.

When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone.

He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade – a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze. Like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they came to be there – or what's happened to the world outside.



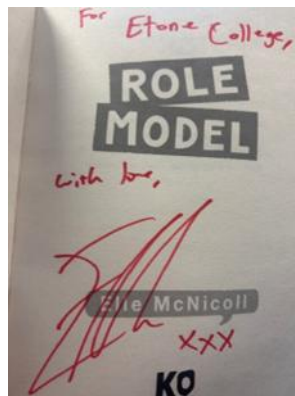
All they know is that every morning when the walls slide back, they will risk everything – even the Grievers, half-machine, half-animal horror that patrol its corridors, to try and find out .



Elle McNicoll – Waterstones Author Signing

Elle McNicoll recently visited Waterstones in Nuneaton for a book signing and this was attended by some of our staff. It was great to discuss with Elle how popular her 'Like a Charm' book was during Bookbuzz last year, with this book one of the top choices.

We have a few of her titles available to loan in the library, including two copies signed by Elle herself: 'Like a Curse' and her latest book 'Role Model'.



Summer Challenge

Over the Summer, our incoming year 7 pupils were invited to complete a transition booklet, which included 3 Summer Reading Challenges. These challenges included reading a book with a great description of a place, read a book about an inspiring character and read a book that pupils had borrowed from a friend/ family member or the Library. There was also a bonus challenge where pupils listed as many different types of text as they could.

Any pupils who completed the bonus challenge were entered in our prize draw. Our lucky winner was Jessica and our runner up, Paige. Well done to them both for their efforts over the Summer and everyone else who completed these reading challenges.



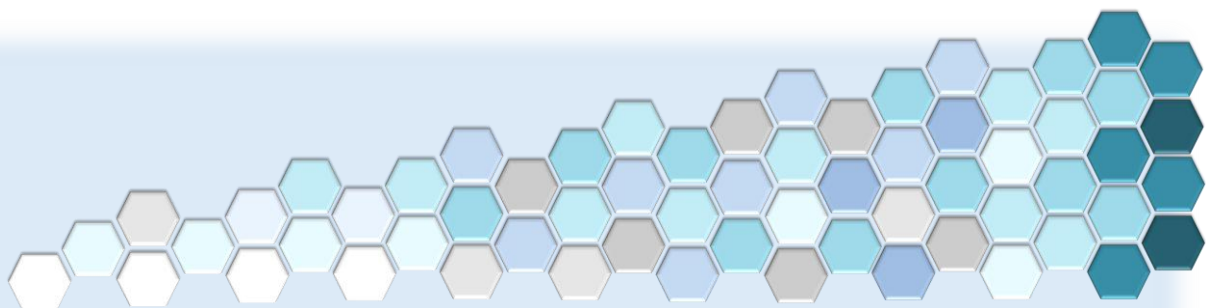


Silver & Bronze Reading Challenge Awards

Etone pupils have the opportunity to work towards receiving their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum reading badges by completing reading challenges, entering our reading competitions and earning reading points for Accelerated Reader quizzes. We are proud to announce that already this academic year, we have awarded a Silver award to Aroush. Well done!



In addition, we have awarded 24 bronze badges. Well done to Oscar, Sunny, Olly, Olivia P, Henry, Jessica, Benjamin, Andreea-Adelina, Ethan, Jett, Thomas, Humaira, Melodie, Khadijah, Matilda, Olivia K, Paige, Laacey, Momina, Amelia, Charles, Luke, Anthony & Muhammad.



Published Poets

Etone College is so proud to announce that we have 11 newly published poets whose work can be found in the 'Young Writers Empowered Pen and Parchment' book. A copy of this is available in the library if pupils would like to come along and read their poems. Well done to Pippa, Lotus, Florence, Rose, Ellayna, Lillie-Rose, Poppy, Rosie-Mai, Amelia P, Lily & Dreem.



Upcoming Usborne Book Fair - Tuesday 4th November.

Pupils are invited to come along and join us at our first Book Fair of this academic year. CosyCorners Books (an independent seller of Usborne books) will be coming to Etone College on Tuesday 4th November. Pupils will be able to visit both before and after School, at breaktime and during their library lessons to peruse and purchase their chosen book/books or to complete their order form to take home. Both cash and card payments can be taken. We hope pupils will support this event and help the school earn credits towards new books. We already have a selection of books in the library to tempt pupils.



Black History Month - October

During October we are celebrating Black History Month because it provides an opportunity to learn and educate others about the diverse experiences of Black people in the UK, from the Windrush generation to contemporary activists, artists, and leaders. It's a chance to dispel myths, challenge stereotypes, and foster understanding. In the library, we have curated 12 key books selected for pupils to read to help celebrate this.



This year's theme is not only about remembrance but a call to action. It invites individuals and communities to stand firm in their power with pride, and to actively shape a world where Black voices are heard, valued, and celebrated. Black History Month 2025 will challenge us to break down barriers, continue pushing for progress, own our spaces and walk confidently into the future.

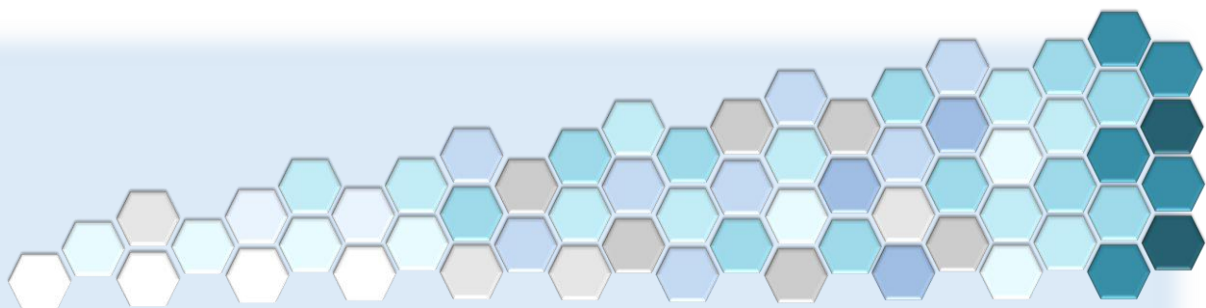


Wanted Competition

With Halloween fast approaching we were celebrating all things VILLAINOUS by launching our 'WANTED' competition.

Pupils are invited to tell us about one of their most VILLAINOUS characters from one of the books or create their own. Prizes: £5 Amazon Voucher, reading goodies and 15 Reading points. All entries receive 10 reading points.

Entries will be displayed in the Library! Results will be announced in the next edition.



Warwickshire Teen Book Awards

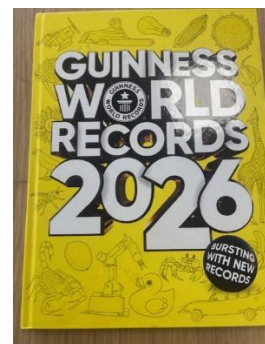


Currently, we have 8 pupils participating in the Warwickshire Teen Book Awards. These awards are aimed at young adult readers, Year 9 and above. During September, the group met to review the 8 longlisted books and made their choice of the 4 books they wanted to see on the final shortlist. Over the next few months, they will be reading and discussing these books in fortnightly meetings before selecting their winner by votes early in December. They will then be able to be involved in the online ceremony on Wednesday, 10th December details and photos to follow in the next edition.)

The 4 books that made the shortlist were 'The Vulpine' by Polly Crosby, 'Odd Girl Out' by Tasneem Abdur-Rashid, 'Loverboy' by Ben Tomlinson and 'Til Death' by Busayo Matuluko. Our group was extremely happy as 3 of the 4 books which made the shortlist were titles that we voted for.

New Books

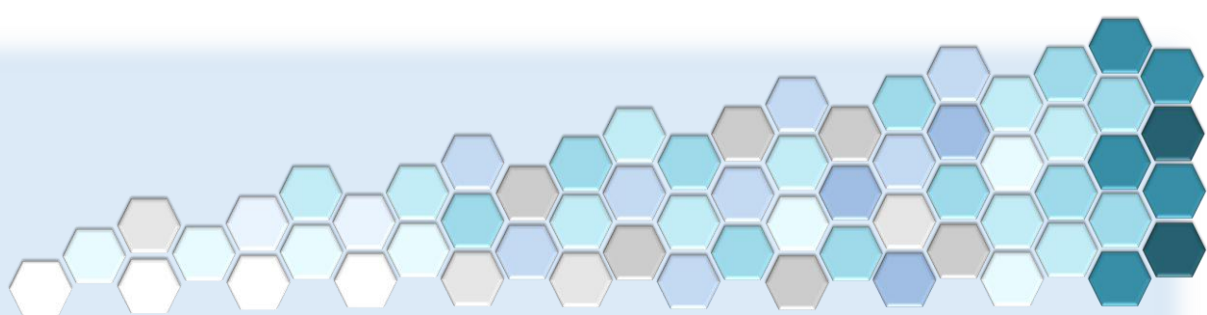
We have some great new additions to our reading collection here at Etone Library, including 'Where's Wally', which helps to develop eye movements and scanning skills, and 'The Guinness World Book of Records 2026', these books are very popular with our pupils. We also have two new collections titled 'Isadora Moon and Mirabelle' and 'Marcus Rashford Break Club' adventures.





Libresoft

It allows students to select books at their reading level and read at their own pace



After finishing a book, pupils take a short quiz to measure their understanding, which helps them gauge their comprehension and progress.

Here at Etone College we run an interactive house competition based around Accelerated Reader quizzes. Each time a pupil passes a quiz they can collect a token based on their house colour. They then get to place the token into their house jar and update the total on their house's whiteboard. The winning house is announced at the end of each half term, with the ribbon on the trophy being changed to reflect this and then proudly displayed in the library.

This half term's winner is Phoenix.

Our pupils greatly enjoy the competitive side of this and all work hard to ensure that their house is the winner. As part of this competition, we also include a 'top quizzing classes' element where classes compete to be one of classes that have completed the most quizzes over a term. These classes then participate in a reading based reward trip.



Here are the most up to date Accelerated Reader house competition results so far this academic year, up to and including Wednesday 22nd October 2025:



290



306



312



343

Year 7 Most Quizzed Class – 7A/E1 – 68 quizzes & 7b/E1 – 212 quizzes

Year 8 Most Quizzed Class – 8A/E3 – 126 quizzes & 8B/E2 – 262 quizzes

Sixth Form Library

It is with immense pride and excitement that we announce the opening of Etone College's sixth form library—a new beacon of learning, helping to make knowledge accessible. There is a selection of books available for each subject, which have been carefully curated by the staff to ensure that pupils can maximise these to help them with their studies.



Whether pupils are there to explore and research through books, or simply find a quiet corner to reflect, this space have been created for them. We hope that this library will be a place where knowledge grows and futures begin.



Blue Peter Badges

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



The Blue Peter Book badge will be awarded to children aged 5-15 who send in their thoughts on a book, draw a character or scene and share which other books and writers they love. Blue Peter badge holders gain free access to **over 200** UK attractions.

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.

