

## **Reading Round Up**

What a busy term! 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 330 books have been loaned.

### **National Year of Reading**

The countrywide launch of The National Year of Reading campaign promises an exciting 2026 with a broad range of activities and events. The National Year of Reading 2026 is the biggest campaign in a generation, designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of everyday life.

Reading expands our world and sharpens our minds, yet fewer people are engaging with reading. This Department for Education initiative, in collaboration with the National Literacy trust aims to tackle the profound decline in the reading environment in the UK and reconnect people of all ages with reading as a relevant and immediately rewarding activity. The campaign is asking the nation to 'Go All In' on their passions and interest for 2026 and discover how reading can unlock the things they already love – be that music, football, baking, family time, friendship, sci-fi, the list is endless.

Etone will be celebrating and participating in this initiative with various activities and events. So watch this space for what is going to be a fantastic year of reading ...

### **Silver & Bronze Reading Challenge Awards**

Etone pupils have the opportunity to work towards receiving their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum reading badges by completing challenges, entering our competitions or earning reading points for Accelerated Reader quizzes. We are proud to announce that this half term, we have awarded 3 Silver awards to Freya, Nusta and Amritjot (Year 8). In addition, we have awarded 28 bronze badges to Olivia, James, Constantin, Ariana, Jacob-John, Ronya, Susanna, Tegan, Isobel, Ethan, Danny, Shahla, Lyle, Kora Theo and Mustafa (Year 7 ) and Lana, Charlie, Inaayah, Alfie, Layla, Hazel, Emilee, Zenia, Gracie-Mai, Amara, Molly and Lily-May (Year 8). Well done to all, keep up the excellent work.





## Scholastic Book Fair

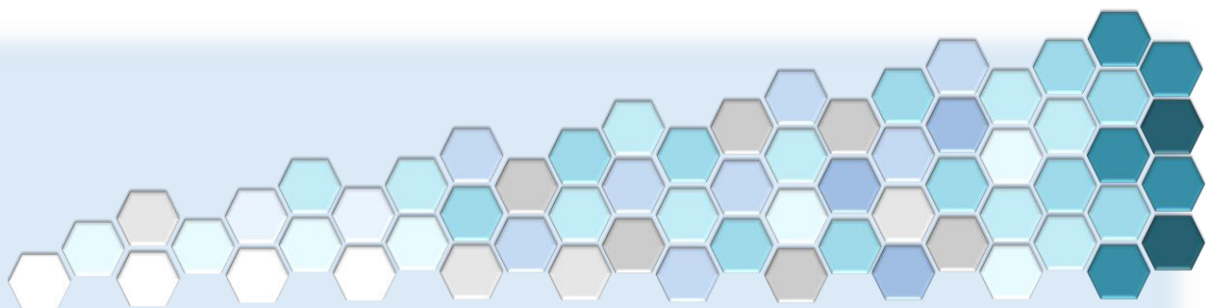
Our next book fair will be taking place from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – end of the school day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Pupils are invited to come along at break and before and after School to purchase their chosen book/books or to complete their wish list to take home. Parents/carers are invited to come along on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March after school from 3.15-5.00pm to enjoy browsing the fair with their children along with some refreshments.

There will be something for every pocket at the fair: **approximately 24% of titles are under £5. Book packs start from £1.99. Pupils may also use their £1 World Book Day token for a discount on any title at the fair.**

Payments can be made via a range of options:

- in person via card at the fair;
- using the QR code remotely which can be found on Wish Lists which will be available for pupils to take home from the Library, or via Scholastic's website, <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>
- Parents can pre-purchase vouchers to spend at the fair. For this option please use the following link <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>

Please remember any purchases made earn rewards for Etone College. These can then be used to buy extra books for our School Library.





## Careers Corner

We are excited to announce that Etone's library now has a Careers Corner. This is a welcoming, comfy space where pupils can obtain information about various careers, qualifications, apprenticeships, university etc. We are very grateful for this new addition and are hopeful that our pupils will use this space to help guide them towards their future plans. Also, keep an eye out for our competition during careers week ...



## Children's Mental Health Week

During February 2026 (9 – 15<sup>th</sup>), the library is supporting Children's Mental Health week. We have created a display with useful tips on how reading can help with Mental Health along with a curated selection of both factual and fiction books that cover mental health topics.

As part of this campaign we are launching a competition, asking pupils to design a bookmark with a mental health 'top tip'. We are then looking to print these and have them available for pupils to use.

First prize includes a copy of *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, a £5 Amazon voucher and 15 reading points. Runners up will receive reading inspired prizes and every entry will be awarded 10 reading points.







## Etone's Pet Month Celebration

As we know, pets are so vital in helping with mental health, over the next few weeks we are celebrating all things PETS! Pupils and staff are being invited to share a drawing or photo of their beloved pet, along with a descriptive paragraph that tell us all about them.

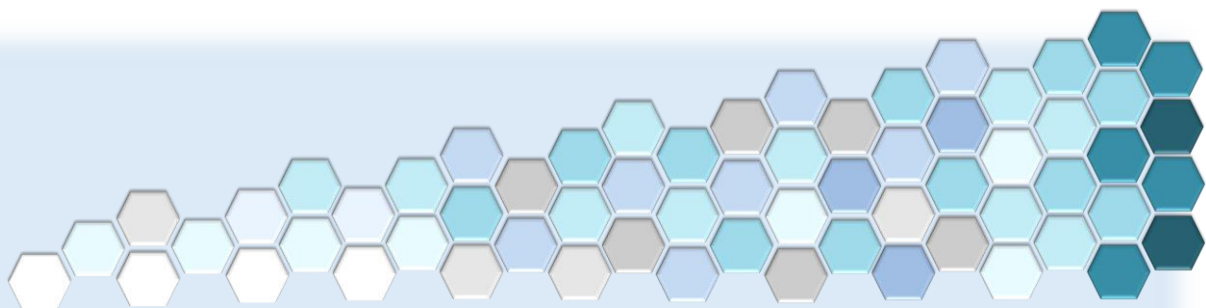
Prizes include a £5 Amazon voucher, a pet inspired prize and 15 reading points. With runners up receiving a pet inspired prize and reading points. All entries will earn 10 reading points. Even the winning pet will receive a prize! The closing date for entries is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

All entries will be displayed in the library to showcase Etone's pets. Currently we have received 35 entries and have awarded 350 reading points.



## Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards

The Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards will be taking place during the first few months of 2026, culminating in an awards ceremony at Warwick in March. Pupils will be reading, discussing and voting on the six shortlisted books prior to this, meeting fortnightly to then finally decide who Etone's winning author will be. More details and photos of the award ceremony to follow in the next edition.





## Christmas Advent Competition

During the lead up to Christmas, Etone's Library ran an Advent competition. Each day pupils came to the library, looked at 'The Little People, Big Dreams advent calendar', read the mini book of the day and answer the questions on the entry form. This proved to be great fun for those who took part. The top prize was a £5 Amazon voucher, 15 reading points, a selection box and some Christmas novelties, with runner up prizes also being awarded. Each entry received 10 reading points towards pupils earning their reading badges. Our winner was Ava in Year 8 – well done Ava. Our runners up were Lily and Sandraz (Year 8). Well done to you both.

Following the fabulous efforts made by our pupils in participating in this competition we awarded almost 750 reading points – well done to everyone who entered.

## Jane Austen – 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary

During December we celebrated Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as part of these celebrations, we launched our 'Design a Bookmark'. Pupils were invited to design a bookmark inspired by either Jane's life, her books, characters or an accumulation of all three. Prizes included 15 reading points, a £5 Amazon voucher, sweets and a Jane Austen journal. Our winner was Mikaela (Year 8), runners up were Effie, Ava-Rose, Lacey (Year 8) & Susie (Year 7) – Well done to them all!

Here is a photo of some of winners from both competitions:





## Harriet Goodwin – Author Visit

On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, we were delighted to offer Year 8 pupils' fantastic sessions with author, Harriet Goodwin. During her creative writing workshops, Harriet taught 'top tips' to make your writing jump off of the page using examples from novels which inspire her. She said:

- At the heart of every great story is a **problem** which needs to be solved.
- The main character must **care** about solving the problem.
- The start of the story needs to be as close to the key point of **change** as possible.

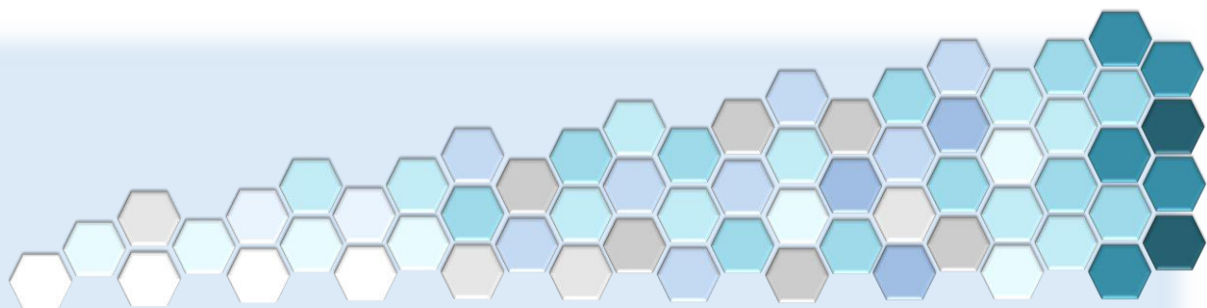
She then gave another array of great tips for starting stories based on 'show not tell'.

In the afternoon, Harriet gave an author talk to the whole year group explaining the process of becoming an author; drafting and proofing; cover design and her inspiration from a dream, to treasure hauls, to Britain's Got Talent. As usual, Year 8 were courteous and curious, asking an array of interesting questions. The session culminated in Harriet giving a demonstration of operatic singing from her first career.

Following her visit, Harriet provided the following feedback:-

**"I was SO impressed with the students at your school. The two workshop groups I had really rose to the challenge of my creative writing sessions (which, I know, are fairly demanding), and the whole year group was fabulous: there was absolute quiet while I spoke, a sense of genuine interest and great questions at the end.**

**They were all a credit to the school and I couldn't have asked for more."**





We are delighted that our pupils represented Etone so well.

We have now passed the baton over to our pupils with the launch of our story opening competition. Pupils are invited to use Harriet's tips to write their own opening of a story. Prizes include, for our winner a £5 Amazon voucher, a signed copy of one of Harriet's books and 15 reading points, 2 runners up will also receive a signed copy of one of her books. All entries will receive 10 reading points towards reading badges.



## Accelerated Reader Reward Trips

We have again worked closely with Nuneaton library, and our 'most quizzed' classes celebrated their reading with a scavenger hunt in Nuneaton Library during an English lesson in the final week of last term. This was an extremely enjoyable activity, which also enabled pupils to fully explore the range of services offered at this invaluable, local, free resource.

Our top quizzing teams for last half term were **7a/E1 – 254 quizzes, 7b/E1 – 581 quizzes, 8a/E1 – 383 quizzes and 8b/E2 – 563 quizzes**

Here are some photos of the fun we had on this reward trip. Thank you to staff at Nuneaton Library for all their help with this visit, the staff commented on how polite and well mannered Etone pupils were, so a big well done all those involved for representing our School so well!





## Library Loan Challenge

We recently launched our library loan challenge, encouraging pupils to loan books to read at home for pleasure. For each book loaned and returned between February and Easter pupils will receive a stamp on their loan card.

5 loans = 5 reading points

10 loans = 10 reading points

15 loans = 15 reading points

With 30 reading points up for grabs what a great incentive to get loaning!



## Visit to Eton College

On Friday 6th February we had the wonderful opportunity of taking 23, Year 10 pupils on a reward trip to Eton College in Windsor. During the day our pupils saw everyday life of Etonians, and attended informative workshops on leadership and self-leadership, the constructive use of AI, and careers advice. Etone pupils stated that their favourite part of the trip was seeing different areas of the college, especially the Library, which holds hundreds of rare printed books. The books all have to be stored under certain conditions in order to maintain their original condition. Please take a look of some of the photos taken as a memento of the day, one which we know the pupils involved will remember for years to come!







### **Etone Exceeding Excellent - Nuneaton Library**

Etone Exceeding Excellent took their first local cultural capital trip on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February to Nuneaton Library where pupils had to think creatively to complete 'The Big Challenge'. It was wonderful to see the range of answers they from 'The history of Africa' being the biggest thing in the library to a tiny 3d printed robot; pupils were inspired by chess, fashion books, the grand piano and cookery during their trip. They also reminisced about childhood trips to the journey and explored the children's library!



## New Books

We have had some fantastic request from our pupils for books. These have mainly come from pupils reading the first book in the series to desperately wanting to read the next. New books include Good Girl, Bad Blood, As Good as Dead, The 100 (plus Day 21 and The Homecoming, Kofi and the Brand New Vibe and Kofi and the Secret Radio Station. In addition, we have also added copies of our Warwickshire Secondary Book award books so that all pupils are able to enjoy these and be part of finding out who the winning author will be.



## World Book Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

To celebrate world book day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, we will be hosting a variety of events and competitions. Watch out for our next edition which will contain all the details of this very exciting day, our winners and photographs. We cannot wait to participate in what is such a vital day in our reading calendar.





## Design a National Book Token Competition

To celebrate World Book Day from now until 27th March pupils are invited to enter a competition sponsored by National Book Tokens to create a bold, eye-catching gift card design that celebrates their interests and shows how books help them explore ideas, spark imagination and go further through reading. 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). In addition, each pupil in the overall winner's form will each receive a £10 National Book token gift card in their design. Templates are available in the library.



## Competitions and Events

We now have a dedicated display in the library promoting all current competitions and events. In addition, this also includes an updated weekly Reading Round Up detailing current Accelerated Reader totals, library loans and any library news. This display will ensure that pupils can review all valuable reading opportunities in one place.





## Accelerated Reader Update

Here are the most up to date Accelerated Reader house competition results so far this academic year up to and including Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Well done to Griffin who have stormed into the lead, with Phoenix and Griffin not too far behind! Well done to all our year 7 & 8 pupils for their efforts.



**1448**



**1693**



**1793**



**1696**

## Our most quizzed classes from 6<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Year 7 Most Quizzed Class – 7A/E1 – 318 quizzes & 7b/E3 – 463 quizzes**

**Year 8 Most Quizzed Class – 8A/E1 – 253 quizzes & 8B/E3 – 163 quizzes**

## 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.



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.

