



The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Literacy Newsletter — Term 2 — March 2023



**English Martyrs staff on World Book Day
2023**



The Library



We've recently carried out some student voice, asking students what books they would like to see in the library. And, we've listened! We've ordered lots of books. Do you spot any of your requests in the photo? Pop into the library to rent one of them to read over Easter!



Dyslexic Friendly Section



The library has recently invested in hundreds of dyslexic friendly reading books. We have a wide range of genres and they span across all ZPDs! Here at English Martyrs School we strive for inclusivity in all areas!



Reading Leaders

Our new Reading Leaders programme started this term with our Year 7 students reading to our Sixth Form and Year 10 students. A fantastic atmosphere in the library. Well done to all students involved, they also enjoyed a free breakfast!





Sixth Form Library System Launch

Our Sixth Form library is now stocked with new disciplinary and reading for pleasure books and were on display at the Year 12 open evening. Disciplinary reading books are directly linked to courses and reading for pleasure books are just that- what we think you'll enjoy!





World Book Day Book Cafe

Thursday 2nd March
– we had a very successful World Book Day ‘Book Café’ event. KS3 and 4 librarians were waiters and served selected Year 7,8 and 9 students books from a ‘blurb’ menu. Students could then keep their selected books. Students on intervention were also invited to participate. In total over 600 books were given away.





World Book Day Bookflix @ EMS6



Thursday 2nd March - we had a very successful World Book Day 'Bookflix event' hosted by the Sixth Form Librarians. We gave out free YA books, had chats about books we had read and would recommend, students filled out book reviews and added to a 'wish tree' of books they would like to order.



Intervention

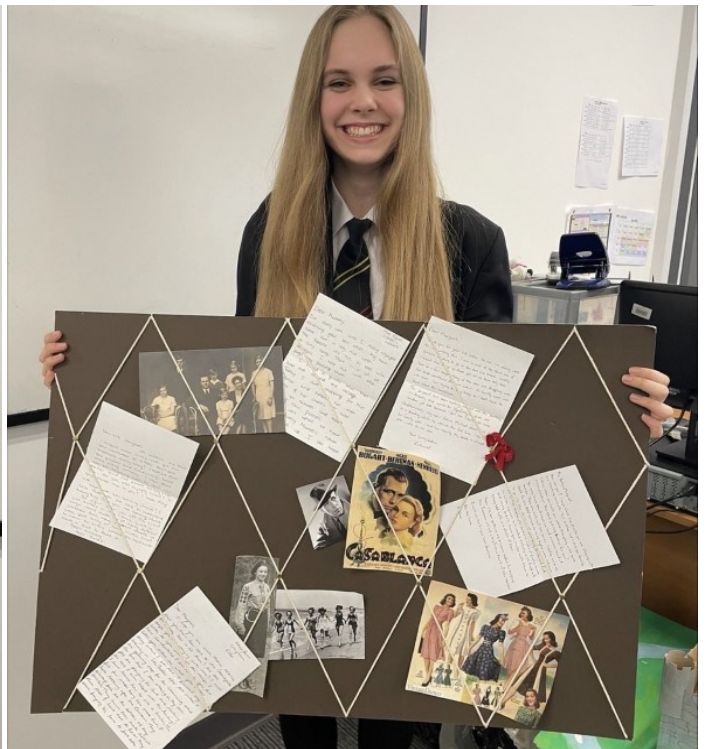
We have finished our first round of intervention with 106 KS3 students. We have had some fantastic results with 27 students graduating the programme and 17 progressing to the next level. We have just started our second round with 157 students and are looking forward to seeing the brilliant results.





Holocaust Memorial Day

As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, our Year 9 students completed an extended project in order to commemorate and reflect on the Holocaust. Project works was displayed in the library along with a large collection of reading materials for students to engage with.





Rebecca Ryan Author Visit



Past student and author Rebecca Ryan visited the Sixth Form. She helped with the opening of our new Sixth Form library system, enabling all students to check out books on the new app 'Accessit'. She also delivered creative writing workshops to Y12 English Literature and Language students and gifted and talented Y10 students. Rebecca was so impressed with ideas that the students came up with - we are sure we will have many more successful authors to come out of our school.



Summerhill Queen Elizabeth Memorial Project

A group of Year 7 students took part in a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, at Summerhill Park. One of our students was chosen to present her speech of Queen Elizabeth II to the participating schools of our town. Our Mayor, Brian Cowie, attended the event and commented on how fantastic our students are.





International Women's Day

We celebrated International Women's Day on the 8th of March. The library had a selection of books to celebrate powerful women who helped change the world. The theme this year was #EmbraceEquality and these Year 7 students came and selected books on equality to check out!






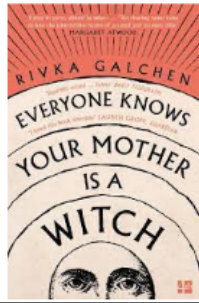

International Women's Day



Easter Reading

Staff

We have a huge area of staff books in the Sixth Form library. There is a well stocked CPD and reading for pleasure section. Please come and take out some holiday reading! If you find something that you have enjoyed, why not write us a book review to help others.

BOOKFLIX		Book Reviews			
	Review by Mrs Phenix	<p>Summary: The story begins in 1618, in a small German town and the plague is spreading. The Thirty Years' War has begun, and fear and suspicion are in the air throughout the Holy Roman Empire. Katharina Kepler, an illiterate Widow is accused of being a witch by her neighbours for her herbal remedies and the success of her children, including her eldest, Johannes, who is the Imperial Mathematician and renowned author of the laws of planetary motion. It's enough to make anyone jealous, and Katharina has done herself no favours by being out and about and in everyone's business. Facing the threat of financial ruin, torture, and even execution, Katharina tells her side of the story to her friend and next-door neighbour Simon, a reclusive widower imperilled by his own secrets.</p>			
<p>Title: Everyone knows your mother's a witch.</p> <p>Genre: Historical Fiction</p> <p>Author: Rivka Galchen</p> <p>Age Recommendation: 13+</p>	<p>Star Rating and why? : </p> <p>Why: Galchen strikes the perfect balance between historical accuracy and modern humour to render Katharina vividly — a strong-willed, big-hearted healer and mother . . . It's at once an illuminating account of history and a timely, provocative study of weaponized morality, group hysteria, and the villainization of powerful women.</p>				



Easter Reading

Key Stage Three

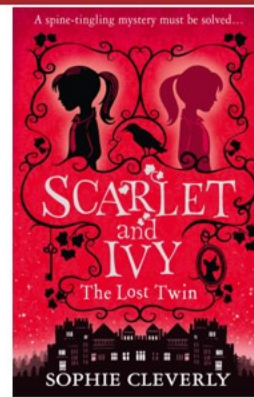
Book Review

“This book was amazing and filled with mystery. Whenever I read this book I just feel like can’t put it down as each page reveals a new secret. I would definitely recommend this book. The only thing is once you have read the first book it is a MUST that you read the next! I would say this book is for kids aged 9-12.”

This book has been reviewed by Rebecca Stinton

Scarlet and Ivy: The Lost Twin

By
Sophie Cleverly



Key Stage 3 students have access to our free online digital library, MyOn. There are over five thousand different books to choose from. Books are all linked to ZPDs and STAR reading. There are multiple genres and subject areas available to all. Next time you have a chance, log on to MyOn on our school computers or at home. Logins and passwords are available on Teams and were handed out by tutors in September. Just go to www.myon.co.uk/login. Student logins are the same ones used to login to the school computers. Student passwords are all 'Password1'.

RENAISSANCE
myON



Easter Reading

Key Stage Four

Book Review

"I like this book because it made me feel scared as I read it. I want to read more books from this author. I would recommend this for people who are over 12. I suggest you read when it's dark so your imagination thinks it's real."

This book has been reviewed by Thomas Craggs.

Scabba Jack

By
Peter J. Murray



Book Review

"I like this book because it is a really long book and is about my favourite player growing up. It is all about his life and what he did during his rugby life. I would suggest anybody can read this as it is autobiographical and very easy to understand."

This book has been reviewed by Henry Craggs

The Test




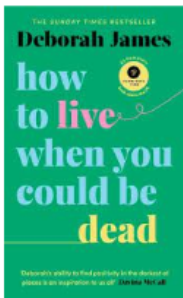

By
Brian O' Driscoll





Easter Reading

Key Stage Five

BOOKFLIX		Book Reviews			
	Review by Lewis Howe	<p>Summary: Where to start! Deborah James' book is inspirational. She makes us employ a different perspective of life: asking us to be thankful of the simplest of things that we may take for granted. As an individual who unexpectedly encountered terminal cancer at the age of 35, she really supports us to find light in the darkest of times. An inspirational message which asks us to "question life as if you didn't have tomorrow and live it the way you want to today".</p> <p>Star Rating and why? : </p> <p>Why: I've never met a book that can make you look at each day in a different way. Her book is something that makes us take a fundamental approach to life. I would definitely recommend this book - it shares a compelling message to all.</p>			
<p>Title: How to live when you could be dead</p> <p>Genre: Autobiography</p> <p>Author: Dame Deborah James</p> <p>Age Recommendation: 14+</p>					



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