



# The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Literacy Newsletter — Term 2 — March 2024



**We have had a fantastic time this term within the school with regards to Reading & Literacy.**

**The library continues to thrive and staff and students enjoy reading as part of their daily routine.**

**World Book Day was a great success!**



# Rewards for our top readers

Students who have engaged in reading over this half-term have been rewarded with book tokens which they can spend on our book vending machine. Check out all of these great reads picked by our top students!







# Oracy and Reading

An important part of being able to read is being able to articulate through speech. This is an essential life skill that we continue to develop in school; in lessons, and through extra-curricular activities. The Catenians debate society are a great way to get involved in developing your oracy skills. Check out Ava, Scarlett and Oliver who done a fantastic job!





# Children's Mental Health Week—Feb 2024

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Change your story

**3 in 5** children and young people told us that reading helps them to relax

**Almost half** say that reading makes them feel happy

**3 in 10** say that reading makes them feel more confident or helps them deal with problems

Reading is a great positive mental-health strategy and we are constantly stocking our library with lots of new reading for pleasure books. Drop by to check out our new stock and pick up a book to relax and switch off!







# Reading Leaders

We are very proud of our Reading Leaders, where our Year 7 students read to Year 12 students. This increases student confidence as well as their oracy skills. After the last round, 100% of students said it increased their confidence for reading aloud in lessons. Here are Conner and Matilda working together. Thank you for everyone's hard work.





# Royal Shakespeare Company



ROMEO AND JULIET



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

What is your favourite Shakespeare story?

We have lots of options in the library to enjoy!

Staff and students have been involved with the Royal Shakespeare Company this term. This is a performance of Romeo and Juliet—well done to all involved.







# World Book Day 2024 Dress-up



**The History Department started off World Book Day with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed fancy dress. Lots of activities were planned for the day. All KS3 students were offered free book vouchers. Thank you to all staff and students for getting involved including the SEND, RE and English Departments.**





# World Book Day 2024 Dress-up







# World Book Day 2024 Challenge

Olivia, Lily, Leah and Maja won the challenge to guess the teachers behind the book – well done girls, with a score of 13/15. How many can you get?





# National Reading Champions 2024



**Well done to Team EMS who took part in the National Reading Champions 2024 on 20th March 2024. It was a great effort and they finished just 7 points below the top three. Well done girls! And a huge thank you to Mrs Thoburn and Mr Dixon for preparing the team. #NRCQuiz2024**





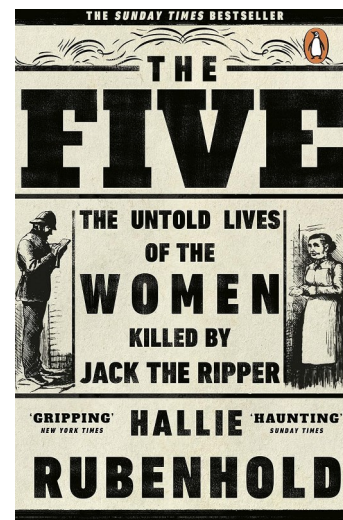
# Easter Reading Recommendations

## Librarian's choice-The Five by Hallie Rubenhold

**Synopsis:** Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary-Jane are famous for the same thing, though they never met. They came from Fleet Street, Knightsbridge, Wolverhampton, Sweden and Wales. They wrote ballads, ran coffee houses, lived on country estates, they breathed ink-dust from printing presses and escaped people-traffickers. What they had in common was the year of their murders: 1888.

Their murderer was never identified, but the name created for him by the press has become far more famous than any of these five women. Now, in this devastating narrative of five lives, historian Hallie Rubenhold finally sets the record straight, and gives these women back their stories.

Recommended by Mrs Thoburn



## KS3: Enola Holmes by Nancy Springer

**Synopsis:** When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits.

Because when she arrives, she finds herself involved in the kidnapping of a young marquess, fleeing murderous villains, and trying to elude her shrewd older brothers - all while attempting to piece together clues to her mother's strange disappearance. Amid all the mayhem, will Enola be able to decode the necessary clues and find her mother?

Recommended by Sophie Year 9

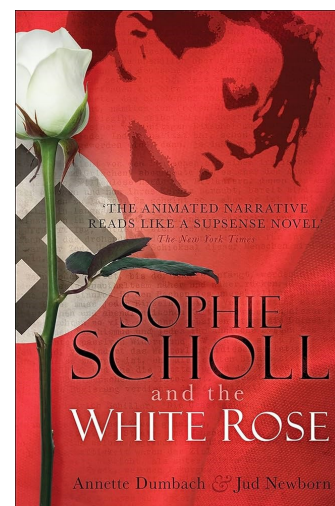


## KS4: Sophie Scholl and the White Rose—Dumbach & Newborn

**Synopsis:** A fantastic book that gives a detailed insight into the life and mind of an inspirational young person, who stood up for injustice, but paid the ultimate price. Her story is truly heroic.

To cite the last sentence of the book, "...if people like those who formed the White Rose can exist, believe as they believed, act as they acted, maybe it means that this weary, corrupted, and extremely endangered species we belong to has the right to survive, and to keep on trying."

Recommended by Mrs Hannah



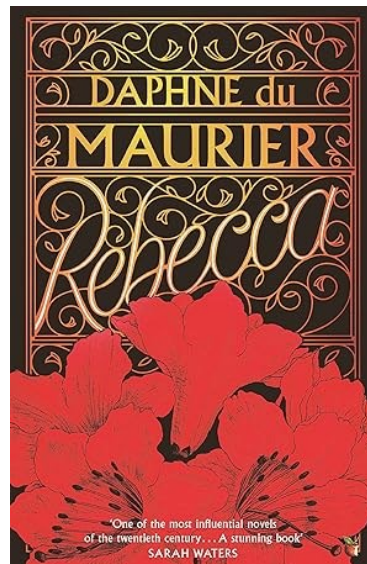


# Easter Reading Recommendations

## A level: Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

**Synopsis:** On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine of Rebecca falls in love with Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower. Although his proposal comes as a surprise, she happily agrees to marry him. But as they arrive at her husband's home, Manderley, a change comes over Maxim, and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated mansion, she realises that she barely knows him. In every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, and the new Mrs de Winter walks in her shadow.

Recommended by Year 11 Student



## George's Secret Key To The Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking

**Synopsis:** George's parents, who have always been wary of technology, warn him about their new neighbors: Eric is a scientist and his daughter, Annie, seems to be following in his footsteps. But when George befriends them and Cosmos, their super-computer, he finds himself on a wildly fun adventure, while learning about physics, time, and the universe. With Cosmos's help, he can travel to other planets and a black hole. But what would happen if the wrong people got their hands on Cosmos? George, Annie, and Eric aren't about to find out, and what ensues is a funny adventure that clearly explains the mysteries of science.

Recommended by Mr Dixon



## A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

**Synopsis:** Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. Patrick Ness takes the final idea of the late, award-winning writer Siobhan Dowd and weaves an extraordinary and heartbreaking tale of mischief, healing and above all, the courage it takes to survive.

Recommended by Twinkl

