

# Year of Reading Book Festival Report 2022

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The aim of our annual School Book Festival is to inspire an enjoyment of books and reading throughout the whole school. It supports the school core values of Excellence, Integrity, Community and Leadership by engaging pupils' intellectual curiosity and enabling opportunities for pupils to work together for the benefit of the whole school. The Festival this year coincided with World Book Day on Thursday the 3rd of March. This was our 9th Book Festival and was kindly funded by the Old Redingensians Association.

## **Taran Matharu**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022**

### **Author workshop for all Year 7**

New York Times bestseller, Taran Matharu, is the author of the 'Summoner' series and the 'Contender' trilogy. The 'Summoner' series has been translated into 15 languages and has sold over a million copies in English.

- The Novice (Summoner book 1) is the third most borrowed LRC book and The Inquisition (Summoner book 2) is the 5<sup>th</sup> most borrowed LRC book this year (correct as of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022)
- The Chosen (Contender book 1), was shortlisted for the Reading School Book Award 2020

**This was Taran's fourth visit to Reading School.**



*Photos of author workshop with Taran Matharu*

During the workshop, Taran revealed the simple technique he uses to come up with story ideas and then encouraged pupils to have a go at creating their own.

Taran explained how his technique was used to create the Summoner Series. By thinking about what he enjoyed or interested him from books, films and computer games he identified the elements he wanted to use in the Summoner books. This was combined with personal experiences and other interests.

### **Student Feedback:**

I thought the workshop was really good. I liked that Taran Matharu taught us how to connect all of your ideas together to create a story. It was really engaging and inspired me to think of ideas for a story that I was writing.

Ayuksh, 7C

I thought it was very useful. We learnt a brand new skill which is fantastic for writing stories - it was also very inspiring

Savinu, 7C

I enjoyed Taran Matharu's talk because he shared lots of information about how he became an author and how he wrote his previous books. I liked the writing section because we were able to come up with our own ideas for writing a book.

Henry, 7L

Taran was amazing! He introduced us to a new style of planning a book which was amazing. He was very encouraging and fun. He even gave me some advice on how to be motivated. Overall, he was amazing and very enthusiastic! He even signed our books!

Jacob, 7C

I really enjoyed the workshop. His method of figuring out a dream book was very good. Taran really inspired me to follow my dreams.

Nathaniel, 7L

I really liked the workshop. The method of how to create the base of the story was really clever and I learnt a lot from Taran Matharu. After he had explained what the Summoner series was about, I really want to read it. Even the first few pages which I read, they were great it seems like a really good series.

Abhiram, 7L

It was really good and it opened me up to the world of books a lot more.

Rowan, 7C

I thought the workshop was really fun and I liked the experience of meeting an author.

Devayan, 7L

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop as the author answered all the questions we had and told us all about his Summoner Series which I am currently reading and I know the rest of the book will be fantastic.

Sai, 7S

His method to come up with books is really good and fun to do. His method helped me come up with a story of my own!

Benjamin, 7L

What I liked about the workshop is the method Taran showed us about making an idea to a book, as it allows us to make a fun story based on our own interests. It can easily get the struggle of making a plot out of the way, and it can easily become the foundation of the story.

Adedayo, 7C

I found that meeting Taran Matharu was a great experience and came out knowing more than when I came in. His method for creating story ideas was amazing as it incorporates all your favourite things, therefore you will enjoy writing it. He was also very kind and took time to answer my question (at the end after question time) about how to overcome writers block. He has inspired me to continue writing my story and taught me how to make it better.

Ishaan, 7C

I really enjoyed the workshop, as I got to try his way of coming up with a story idea, and that inspired me to write a story of my own using his idea. I found it very informative, and I think soon I am going to read his books.

Ethan, 7L

Taran Matharu's way of planning was very interesting, I hadn't thought about writing in that way before! I am looking forward to reading some of his books because I like his way of writing/planning and the themes he writes in.

Noah, 7C

I liked the helpful advice given into planning a story, mashing up all topics e.g. TV shows, movies, video games, books into 1 organised planning sheet - transforming all ideas into 1 big read. The positivity of the workshop, shown all the way through

the lesson, told me that nothing is scary about planning and writing up a story of your choice. and that you can let your imagination run wild.

Pedram, 7C

I really am thankful to Taran because lately I have started producing much better work in English and my elective (creative writing)

Aiyaan, 7S

I really liked it I didn't know how to write a good story but now I know how now I'm going to write my own good story.

Jules, 7C

It was awesome having the talk and asking questions to a well-known author and discovering the secret ways of how to plot out an interesting book

Jason, 7E

It was very useful as I learned quite a bit from it. I am quite proud that I also got ones of the books signed by him as well.

Pranavram, 7W

It was amazing! I loved meeting one of my favourite authors.

## **Sonia Leong**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022**

**Illustrator talk for 7S, 8C, all Year 9 and 6<sup>th</sup> for A level art students. Lunch time workshop open to all ages.**

Sonia is recognised throughout the UK as one of the leading Manga artists and workshop presenters. Her visits to schools are inspirational and help to motivate students to look at literature through the art of Manga, which is very accessible to all children.

Sonia's first graphic novel was Manga Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet. Her awards include Young Adult Library Services Association Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Best Books for Young Adults and Tokyopop's first UK Rising Stars of Manga competition.

Sonia is a cover artist for Titan Comics on Assassin's Creed: Awakening and Norman. In children's publishing, she illustrated the I, Hero series (Hachettes) by Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, the Girls FC series (Walker) by Helena Pielichaty and the Ninja series (Barrington Stoke) by Chris Bradford.

Her numerous how-to-draw Manga books such as Draw Manga: Complete Skills (Search Press) and Beginning Manga (Walter Foster) are well-loved all around the world. She also works in other fields such as design, film and television, fashion and advertising.



*Photos of the Sonia Leong Talk and Workshop*

Sonia Leong Article by Jim 12TT

Sonia Leong visited the school and hosted a number of manga talks and a workshop, as part of the wider Book Festival on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. The workshops in particular were well received by those who participated and involved Sonia running a crash course in drawing manga characters, effortlessly demonstrating the steps and techniques to go through when undergoing such an endeavour. Not only did she stun with her speed drawing (on A2 paper with a whiteboard pen, might I add) but she also enlightened and inspired some of the participants:

I really enjoyed the talk and workshop because in both I learnt something. I do not read manga regularly so I did not know much about this topic but after Sonia Leong's talk, it has made me want to start drawing some manga figures in my free time for practice and to also read.

Sai, 7S

I thought it was so cool to see a manga artist in person and how she does her artwork! I really found her and her lifestyle/ work very inspiring as well as encouraging me to try manga books and drawings!

Rushil, 8C

It was very interesting, I learnt a lot of new things about the manga genre as I read it but didn't actually know anything about the development process.

Reuben, 9S

Along with demonstrating her artistic skill, she also gave an insight into her daily routine as a full-time illustrator/manga artist to the sixth formers as well as general art advice regarding burnout management, doing commissions and going to conventions among other things.

All in all, Sonia Leong's workshop was an astounding success, our students got to witness first-hand the artistic process behind designing manga characters and we look forward to having her back again next year!

**More Student Feedback:**

Amazing Talk! Author really cheery and seemed like she actually wanted to be here. Really interesting topic as well.

Robert, 9W

It was really interesting, and it was cool to see the work that gets put into manga.

Nathan, 7S

I enjoy reading manga and watching anime so it was interesting to see the process in how it was made and the hard work that goes into it

Ray, 9E

I believed it introduced the art, styles and genres of manga, manhwa and anime to the audience quite well, as well as having some more specialised tips for anyone interested in pursuing a career in manga and comics. I also enjoyed the general idea.

Justin, 9W

Great speech, very entertaining and I learnt a lot about different manga and styles

Isaac, 9W

I liked learning about something I didn't really know about.

Harrison, 8C

It was interesting which sort of surprised me because I am generally not interested in manga or anime. She talked very fast but I think that was a good thing

Peter, 9S

I am a big fan of anime and manga, one of my pastime hobbies is drawing manga so I really enjoyed learning from someone who does it for a job. The only issue I have is that we did not have enough time!

Yiannis, 9W

I thought it was very useful for art guidance in general, even though I am terrible at it. I learnt how feeling is created in art, and I will find this useful for a lot of things that I do. The talk was also very engaging even though I dislike manga.

James, 9L

It was very informative. She talked a lot about the financial and business side of things which I was unclear of and it was overall an extremely interesting talk followed by a fun workshop.

Jim 12TT

## **Mark Walden**

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March**

#### **Author talk to all Year 7 and Year 8. Book Club lunch time meet and greet.**

Award-winning author, Mark Walden's first book, H.I.V.E., won Richard and Judy's 'Best Kids' Books Ever' 9+ category. Paramount has optioned the film rights to the book, and it was chosen as one of ten titles for Booktrust's first Booked Up scheme. Mark has followed this success with a further eight titles in the popular H.I.V.E. series and a science-fiction series called Earthfall.

- H.I.V.E. (H.I.V.E. book 1) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most borrowed LRC book and Overlord Protocol (H.I.V.E. book 2) is the 4<sup>th</sup> most borrowed LRC book this year (correct as of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022)



### *Photos of Mark Walden author talk*

Mark focussed on his H.I.V.E. series, and gave a very interactive talk exploring why it is more exciting to write about villains than good guys. The talks were followed by an informal meet and greet session with 21 Book Club members who each received one free book.

#### **Student Feedback:**

I really enjoyed Mark Walden's talk because he is very funny and he gave us an insight into the genres of his books. His talk was quite interactive which I liked and, so far, I am really enjoying his 'HIVE' series.

Henry, 7L

I really enjoyed Mark Walden coming in to do an author talk. he described his inspiration for the HIVE (higher institute of villainous education) series, which was the part I enjoyed the most.

Jeremy, 7C

I loved the talk about H.I.V.E it was a really funny and inspiring event. The talk on all of the super-villains and that you should be one was quite nice. The part of the book which Mark Walden read out, was really funny and I can't wait to get up to that bit.

Abhiram, 7L

I thought the talk was very interesting and Mark Walden was very funny. it gave a new way of looking at and judging books which is really cool.

Benjamin, 7L

Mark Walden was very funny and he made me laugh. he talk was very educational and I learnt a lot.

Oliver, 7C

I enjoyed listening to his perspective on stories with superheroes, as he had a point when he told us about the villain's not getting their backstories

Adedayo, 7C

I thought it was cool, and fun to have the author of a book explain their ideas to you.

Isaac, 8C

I really enjoyed it. He used very engaging language and made loads of jokes relating to the current world today.

Martin 8S

It was really good as it inspired me to try some of his books and he told us that the main character of a story doesn't need to be a good person and it could be a bad person as well.

Lucas, 7C

I really enjoyed it as he was really engaging and funny, it also gives an insight on how the idea for hive is formulated. He was also really polite when he signed my book

Ishaan, 7C

It was very interesting and engaging. It was very exciting to see such a famous author

Uthvar,8S

I thought it was nice to see what authors think of their own books and concepts

Theodore, 8E

I liked this talk because I learnt about where Mark Walden got all his ideas from. It was also very entertaining as Mark also told us about his favourite villains and why he wanted to write about what he writes about.

**World Book Day D.E.A.R.  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022**

**Whole school community event**

To celebrate World Book Day each year, the whole school participates in a Drop Everything and Read. During period 6, the whole school is encouraged to stop what they are doing, and read. At the end of their time reading, photos are taken to give a snap shot of the reading community at Reading School. There are also prizes for the best photos!

**First Time Winner – 7C Art**



**Best Re-enactment –Year 9 Latin**



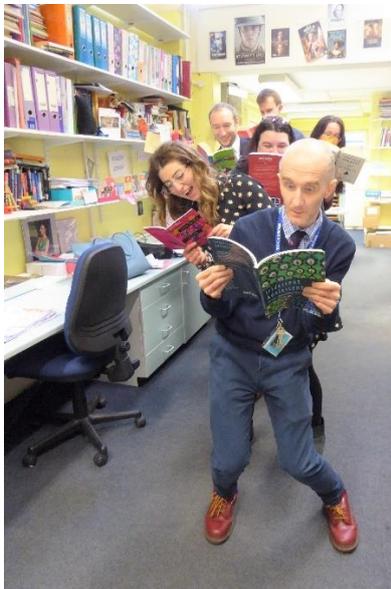
**Best 'Read-Mob' Winner – 11AY English (where the class gate crashed another class or meeting)**



Most Chilled Winner – Year 12/13 French



Staff Creativity Winner – The English Department



Staff Wellbeing Winner – Mr Robson, Mr Singh and Miss Mole



*Photos taken during our whole school Drop Everything and Read on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March*

**Creative Writing Workshop with Igniting Writing's Leader, Alex Baker**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March**  
**After school creative writing workshop open to all years**

Alex Baker, leader of the Igniting Writing Group at Wokingham Library, ran a 60-minute work shop for 8 pupils. The theme was "Choose your own adventure".



**Student Feedback:**

I thought it was incredibly interesting and many unique perspectives and useful feedback were given. I just wish it was longer

Ciaran, 12MRC

It was a really informative and interesting session as I had never done that style of writing before

Andrew, 8S

It was really great getting ideas and inspiration

Jamin, 8E

I like the way how we had options to choose the way our story could go

Adhrit, 8L

It was really fun. I enjoyed the step to step process that he explained it in.

Parth, 7S

### **World Book Day Vouchers**

[World Book Day](#) vouchers were distributed to pupils from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Years 9 to 11 vouchers were distributed via tutors. Years 7 and 8 received them when they visit the Book Fair 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of March. 6<sup>th</sup> form were able to collect vouchers from the LRC desk from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. These vouchers were accepted at the Book Fair.

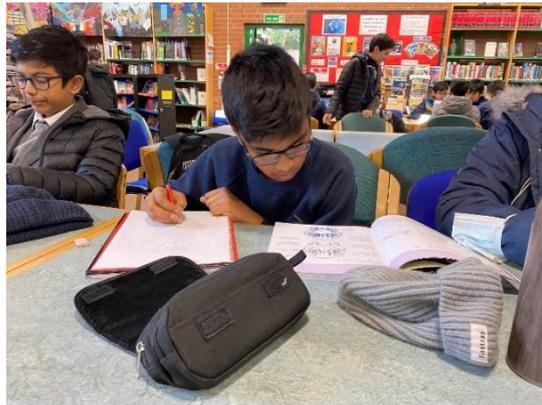
### **Scholastic Book Fair**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2022**

**All year 7 and 8 timetabled to visit. Open to all years during break/lunch.**

Scholastic provides a specially curated collection of books aimed at Secondary School. There are over 200 titles for pupils to look through and the school is rewarded for the books that are sold.

All year 7 and 8 pupils were invited to the LRC to visit the Book Fair. While they were waiting for their turn to enter the Fair, they had the opportunity to apply what they had learnt during Book Week to write stories and draw manga which could be entered into the Book Week Competition. Pupils in all other years could visit during break/lunch. The Book Fair was run by Pupil Librarians and Charity Prefects.



*Photos of the Scholastic Book Fair*

## Book Week Competition

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2022

Open to all years



Book Week Competition

Following from our exciting week of activities we would like to challenge you to either:

- Write a short story of between 500 and 2000 words OR
- Produce a manga/comic which is sized to two A4 pages that tells a story

Entries should be emailed to  
lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk

Reading School Year of Reading  
Book Festival 2022

Deadline 8th April 2022

Sponsored by the  
Old Redingensians Association

## Bookbuzz

Free books for all year 7 pupils have been ordered through the Book Trust's [Bookbuzz programme](#). The books will be delivered during the Autumn term and will be gifted to our new year 7 pupils.



Photos of Year 7 choosing their free books this academic year

## **Funding**

We would like to thank the Old Redingensians Association for their generous financial support. Their funding allowed for all of our author talks, prizes/rewards/incentives and the Bookbuzz reading for pleasure programme from Book Trust.