

# KINGSHILL READS



CIRENCESTER  
KINGSHILL  
SCHOOL

Welcome to the third edition of **KINGSHILL READS** and our first of the new academic year! For those of you who are new to the school, **KINGSHILL READS** is our termly newsletter of reading recommendations to make sure you're never stuck for a book! As always, any member of staff at school would love to hear about what you are reading at the moment, and if you have any suggestions for books to feature in future editions, just let a member of the English Department know!

## BOOK OF THE TERM



### *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve

Suitable for: Years 7 – 9

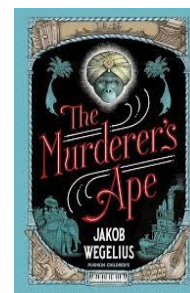
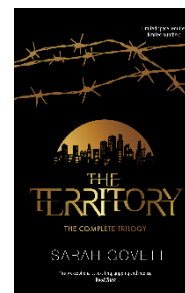
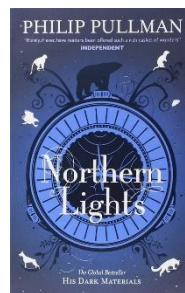
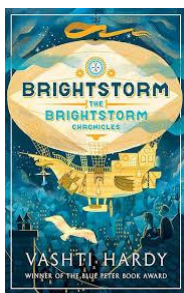
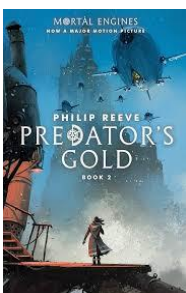
At the end of September, *Thunder City* is published, Philip Reeve's first return to the world of *Mortal Engines* in over a decade, so we thought going back to where it all began would be an appropriate choice for the Book of the Term.

*Mortal Engines* is a magnificent sci-fi dystopian classic, set in a world in which mechanised cities do battle across vast plains. From the opening set-piece in which the Traction City of London devours the small mining town of Salthook, the action never stops and Reeve's writing immerses the reader fully in his steampunk world of assassins and pirates, airships and shield walls. We follow Tom and Hester as they traverse this dangerous land and become embroiled in a plot to capture and use a terrifying weapon.

*Mortal Engines* is a gripping tale of action and adventure, and with four books in the original series, three gripping prequels, and now *Thunder City* to read, there is a whole world waiting to be discovered by lovers of sci-fi or dystopian fiction.

*Mr Smith, Head of English*

## IF YOU LIKE MORTAL ENGINES, TRY THESE...



## STUDENT RECOMMENDATION

### *The Girls I've Been* by Tess Sharpe

Suitable for Years 8 – 11

*The Girls I've Been* is a great story if you like thrillers with genius girl protagonists. It entails cons, lies, and mystery with hints of romance and death.

The plot is filled with lots of exciting details and secret red herrings with a storyline that will keep you invested until the last page. This is an all-round amazing book: whether trying to pull yourself out of a reading slump or just being enthusiastic for another great story. This book is a 100% must when adding to your to be read list.

*Rebecca Clifford, 11E*



## WELCOME TO MRS EVANS

Our new school librarian, Mrs Evans, joined us this month, for what promises to be a brilliant year. With a brand-new library re-fit to take place in the coming weeks, and hundreds of shiny new books to get ready for eager readers, she's going to have an exciting few months ahead! If you haven't popped in to the library to say hello and welcome her to Kingshill, please do!

'Hi there, my name is Mrs Evans and I'm delighted to be the new librarian for Cirencester Kingshill! In my previous job I worked for public libraries around the county buying books and travelling lots.

I like reading all sorts of genres, but like books that have great descriptions so the story draws me in, especially books written by Sarah Crossan, Jacqueline Wilson, JK Rowling, John Green and Rachel Joyce.

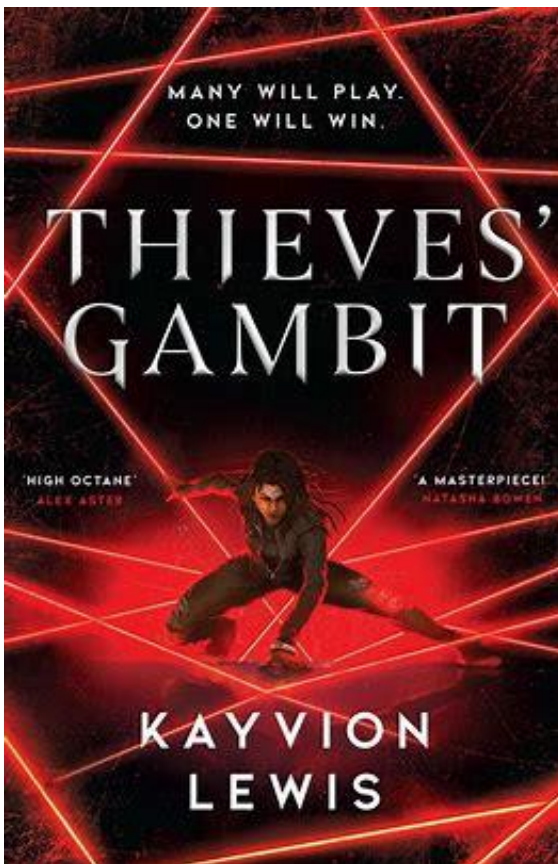
Over the next few weeks I am really looking forward to getting our lovely new shelves and seating in the library and displaying books beautifully so the covers sell themselves.

I'm also looking forward to buying lots of new books and recruiting some new student librarians to help me introduce new activities.'

*Mrs Evans, Librarian*



## GUEST RECOMMENDATION



Each term we ask someone from outside our immediate school community, but with a passion for children's literature, to recommend a book they feel you might enjoy. This term, **Tash Hyde**, the Books and Libraries Lead from Nailsworth-based charity Read for Good, has kindly offered a review of *The Thieves' Gambit* by Kayvion Lewis. For more information on the brilliant work Read for Good do, feel free to visit their website: <https://readforgood.org/>

### ***The Thieves' Gambit* by Kayvion Lewis**

Suitable for Years 8 - 11

This fast-paced heist teen thriller is perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Oceans 11* and *Squid Game*!

Rosalyn Quest is 17 and comes from a legendary family of thieves with one rule – trust no-one! She wants a normal life and enrolls in a gymnastics summer camp, but when her mother is kidnapped the only way to get the money for her release is to win the Thieves' Gambit. And to win, the competitors will do whatever it takes. The challenges see the thieves travel across the globe, working together or against each other to complete and win each challenge. The winner of the Gambit gets to wish for whatever they like...

Will Rosalyn's archnemesis from school be a help or a hindrance? Where the others use violence, Ross uses her quick thinking and skills to outwit her opponents. Can she trust anyone, especially the handsome Devroe...

This story has plenty of plot-twists to keep you on your toes!! The ending definitely makes you want more and with a film to come this is a series to get into. A totally gripping read which we recommend!

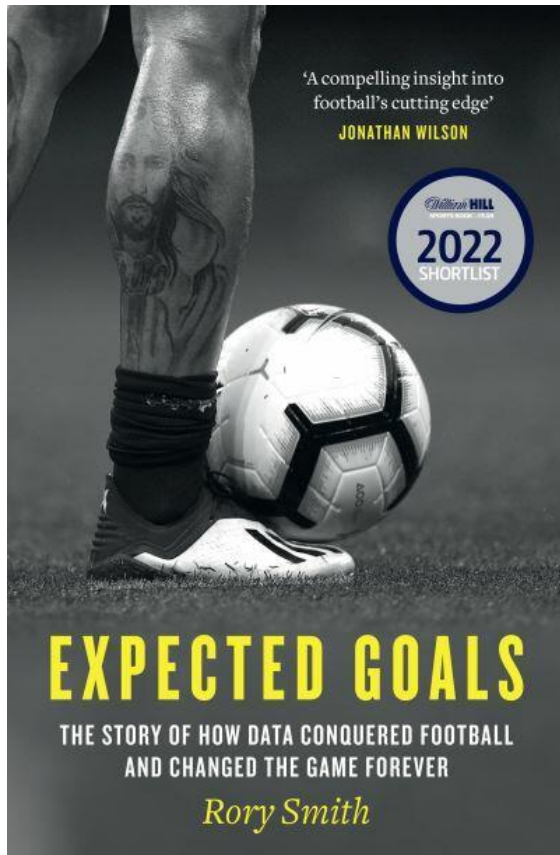
Book 2 - Heist Royale is out in November 2024

*Tash Hyde, Read for Good*



## SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

At Kingshill, reading is not just for English lessons, so each term a member of staff from a different department will recommend a book they think you might enjoy and that will enhance your understanding of their subject. Our third SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT recommendation comes from our **Head of Year 11 and Teacher of PE, Mr Thomas**.



### **Expected Goals by Rory Smith**

Suitable for Years 9-11

Published by Mudlark/Harper Collins, 2022.

This book traces the history of the use of data in football from the late 1990s up to the present day. Bringing together contributions gathered from the Phillipines to London via Denmark it details how football analysts developed their work from the early days of the Opta Index.

Through the use of techniques similar to those used in Oakland in 2003 as evidenced in the film Moneyball (and hence the Red Sox/Liverpool buy in) clubs developed ever-more sophisticated approaches to tactics and the signing of players.

At clubs such as Midtjylland and Brentford this data-led approach resulted in them out-performing against their budgets. The term 'Expected Goals' was first used on British television by Arsene Wenger in November 2017 and has since become one of the most comprehensive measures of a team's performance.

What could be better, a book that celebrates both sport and mathematics!

**Mr Thomas, Head of Year 11 and Teacher of PE**

## FROM THE LIBRARY

### **Murder at Snowfall by Fleur Hitchcock**

Suitable for Years 7 – 9

"Bet there's a body in that," Lucas pulls his blazer tight around his chest. He points at the grey cabinet.

"Bet there isn't, I say dragging my school skirt down to cover my frozen legs. "Why would anyone leave a body there?"

Ruby and Lucas make a discovery buried in the snow.

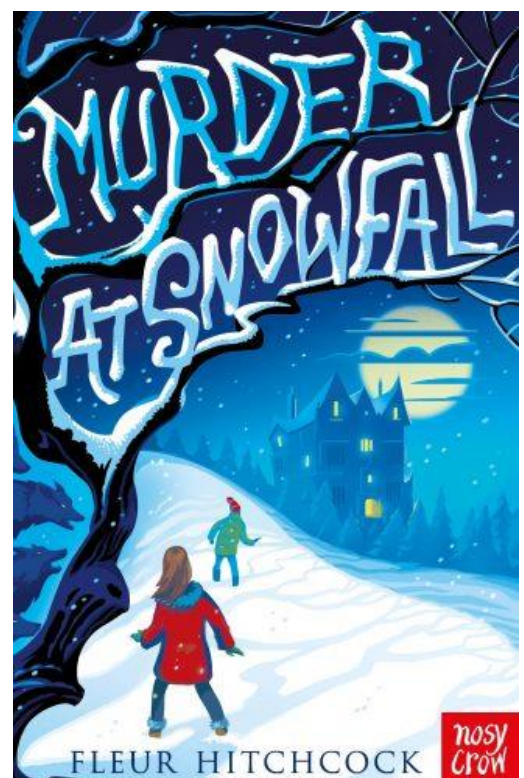
How do they solve it when everyone is acting so strangely and someone is trying to silence them?

This is a great book if you like a puzzle to solve and a mystery to untangle: will you be able to work out who did it before they do?

Want to read other stories like this? Try *Dear Scarlett*, *Murder at Twilight*, and *Murder in Midwinter*.

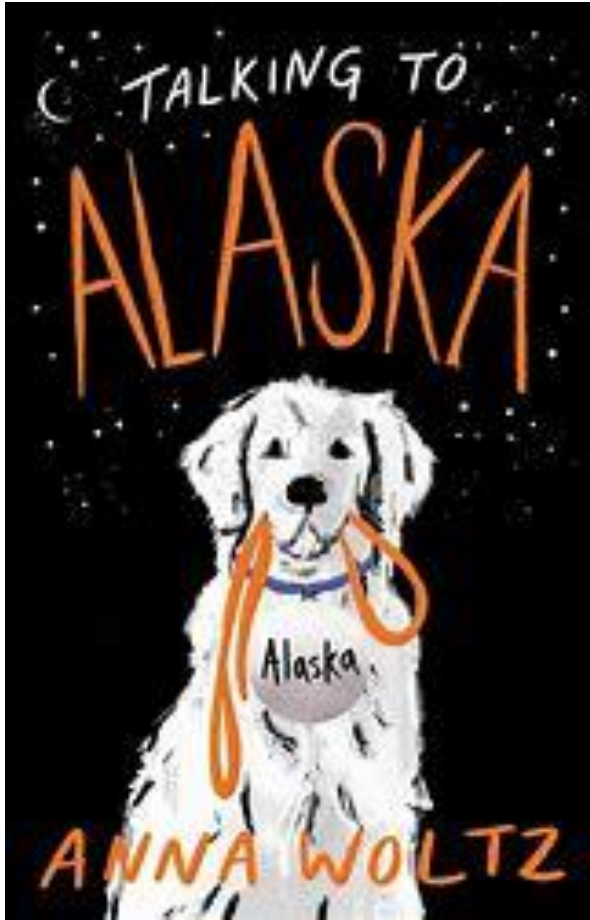
If you like Fleur Hitchcock, try authors Elle McNicoll or Robin Stevens.

**Mrs Evans, Librarian**



## NEW CHAPTERS

Each edition of *KINGSHILL READS* will showcase some of the books you are enjoying with your tutors twice a week as part of our **NEW CHAPTERS** reading programme.



**Talking to Alaska** by Anna Woltz (Year 7 New Chapters book)  
Suitable for Years 7 – 9

It only takes one day at their new school for Parker and Sven to become mortal enemies. Parker's had a terrible summer and just wants to be invisible, while Sven is desperate to make an impression and be known as anything other than 'that kid with epilepsy.'

When Parker discovers her beloved dog Alaska – who she had to give away last year – now belongs to Sven, she's determined to steal her back. Of course, that's much easier said than done...

Meanwhile, Sven is mortified when Alaska is brought to meet him wearing her fluorescent Assistance Dog vest. Having epilepsy feels like he has no control over his life anymore, so when Parker – face covered and in disguise – arrives in his bedroom at midnight to take Alaska back, there's something new to think about. But after spilling all his secrets to her, what'll happen if he uncovers her real identity?

Told in alternating chapters between the two characters, this is a heartfelt story about understanding others. It's a relatively short read, but Anna Woltz packs a lot in, including themes of bullying, trauma, and coping with life-altering situations, while the characters make unexpected discoveries about friendship – and a special discovery about Alaska too.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/talking-to-alaska/>

## BOOKISH THOUGHT FOR THE TERM...

*"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."* – Maya Angelou