



Exam Season: Level Up Together

Exams are dropping in just a few days, and let's be honest, the vibes are getting pretty tense. While it's easy to disappear into your own notes, we're all in this together. Success isn't just about smashing your own papers; it's about making sure the whole Brooklands crew makes it through in one piece. Supporting each other means realising that not everyone's brain handles exam stress the same way. Here's how to be a top-tier teammate:

- **Mind the "Focus Bubble":** For many neurodivergent students, like those with ADHD or Autism, small noises or distractions can be a total deal breaker for concentration. If you're in a study zone, keep the volume at zero. Your "quiet whisper" might be someone else's biggest distraction.
- **Respect the Setup:** You might see people using laptops, extra rest breaks, or separate rooms. These aren't "hacks" or "unfair perks" - they are there to level the playing field so everyone has a fair shot. Let's keep the environment judgment-free.
- **Check Your Mates:** Exam stress hits everyone differently. A quick "You good?" or a five-minute coffee break can literally save someone's day. We're a community, not just a list of candidate numbers.

Let's smash this season by looking out for one another. You've put in the work, now let's get those results!

Get Loud, Get Diverse: The EDI Book Review Challenge!

Let's be real, writing a 300-word review might feel like "extra homework," but how often do you get paid to share your opinion? Whether you found a book that finally gets you, or you discovered a story that totally changed your perspective, we want to hear it.

To celebrate National Reading Year 2026, we're looking for the best reviews that highlight Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We're talking about books that feature LGBTQ+ icons, neurodivergent legends or authors who are finally getting the spotlight they deserve.

What's in it for you?

The Prize: A £10 Amazon Voucher for the best review. That's a free book (or a very fancy snack haul).

The Fame (or not): You choose how you want to be featured on the college site. Go full influencer with a photo and "fanfare," or keep it low-key and post anonymously.

The Impact: Help your mates find stories that actually matter.

See what's already Trending

We've had some banger submissions already! Check out the reviews currently live on our EDI Hub:

- Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi (Reviewed by Matt Petch)
- The Diary of Anne Frank (Reviewed by Carly Parker)
- The Greatest Story Ever Told by Bear Grylls (Reviewed by Kate Veryard)

Think you can write something better? Give it a go!

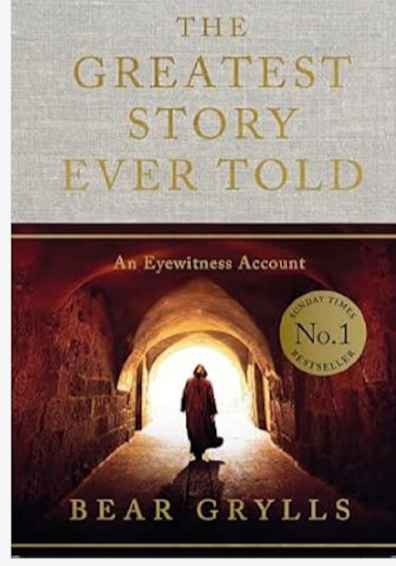
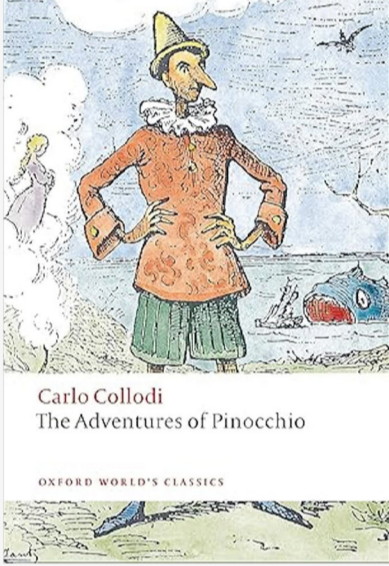
The Details

The Deadline: Midnight on 15th June.

The Word Count: Try to limit yourself to 300 words (Keep it short, punchy, and honest).

How to Enter: Email your review to EDI@brooklands.ac.uk.

The winner will be announced later that week. Don't overthink it, just tell us why the book moved you, why it's important or why everyone else needs to read it.



New Reflection Room: Your New Sanctuary Is Here

We are thrilled to announce the opening of the new Reflection Room at Weybridge! While our campus has been buzzing with incredible transformation and growth, we've been working hard behind the scenes to ensure our facilities match the high standards you deserve.

The Best Is Yet to Come

The room is open to use right now, but we aren't finished yet. We want this space to be perfect, and "perfect" means it's a place our community loves and uses. We are currently sourcing:

- Resources: Books on meditation and poetry, a Bible, a Quran and a Tanakh.
- Comforts: Low seating, prayer mats and a shoe rack.
- The Vibe: Peaceful decor and meaningful wall art (strictly non-figurative/no faces).
- Upgrades: We are investigating the feasibility of a wudu station and we will definitely be installing a Qibla.

Respecting the Space

To keep the peace and make sure everyone feels welcome, we ask our community to follow these shared guidelines:

- Silence is Golden: No chatting, no music, no calls. Just peace.
- Leave it Better: Leave the room exactly as you found it (or cleaner!).
- No Snacks: No food or drinks inside, please.
- Respect the Space: This is a shared sanctuary for everyone, those of all faiths and those of none.

Get Involved: This is Your Room!

We want you to take ownership of this space and help us make it legendary. Here is how you can get stuck in:

- **Geometric Art Content:** We need art! Since the room requires non-figurative designs, we are looking for students to create geometric patterns or nature-inspired prints for the walls. Want to see your work on display? Get in touch.
- **Student Ambassadors:** We're looking for a team of volunteers to help manage the room, keep it tidy, and report any issues. It's a great way to build your CV and support the college community.
- **Specific Requests:** Is there something specific you need to make your reflection or practice better? Let us know.

Email your art, volunteer interest, or requests to: EDI@brooklands.ac.uk

We want to maximise this space for you, and once the final touches are in place, we'll be organising an instructor-led mindfulness and meditation session to help everyone find their zen.

Finding Calm: a lesson on peace in ESOL classrooms

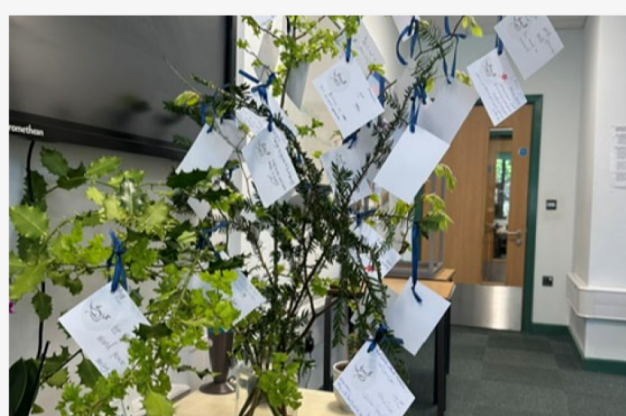
In a world that can often feel busy and uncertain, our classrooms are more than just places to study, they are safe spaces where we can all feel supported. This month, we are sharing a wonderful story from Susan Pattison, our Programme Manager for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), who recently held a special lesson all about Peace.

Making Space for Calm

Sue wanted to give her students a chance to step back from the noise of everyday life. The lesson provided a calm space and gave students tools to cope with stress. It was a moment for everyone to breathe and think about how far they have come on their personal journeys.

The Peace Tree

The heart of the lesson was a creative Peace Tree. Students wrote personal messages about what peace means to them and added them to the branches.



This activity was a perfect example of our College Values in action:

- **Be Caring:** Sue created a kind, supportive environment where students felt safe to share their feelings.
- **Be Inspiring:** By focusing on growth and hope, the lesson encouraged students to look forward to a bright and thriving future.
- **Be Collaborative:** The whole class worked together to build the Peace Tree, showing that we are stronger when we work as one.
- **Be a Champion:** The lesson celebrated the diversity of our learners and championed the right of every person to feel included and heard.

"It was a privilege to conduct a lesson which brought space and calm... and an opportunity for learners to reflect and embrace their journey of growth!" — Susan Pattison

A Lesson for All Of Us

This story reminds us that while we are all here to learn, we are also here to look after one another. Whether you are a student or a member of staff, we can all learn from the ESOL team about the importance of finding peace and supporting our community.

Do you have a story about our values in action? We want to hear how you are being a champion for others! Get in touch with the EDI team to be featured in our next newsletter.

