

Student Hosts Enliven London's Children's Book Award Ceremony!

After a long wait thanks to a pandemic and several unfortunate train strikes, we couldn't have been more excited about finally getting to attend the FCBG Children's Book Award ceremony, a cheerful and lively celebration of children's literature that five lucky Arden students attended in June along with Miss O'Brien.

The event was the conclusion to a long period of reading, voting and shortlisting that hundreds of young people across the country took part in, including several from Arden. The votes revealed the top three books in each category (Younger children, Younger readers and Older readers) which formed the shortlist, and the award ceremony was to announce the winners for each category as well as the overall winner.

Before the ceremony, we had the chance to explore the venue - the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education - which was a vibrant, exciting space with a diverse range of children's literature, from picture books to young adult fiction. We also got the opportunity to get books signed and interact with the authors, who included Jennifer Killick, Phil Earle and Non Pratt.

After lunch, the ceremony began with a story from Steven Lenton and a draw-along session before the winners were announced. In the true spirit of the Children's Book Award, children representing different regions of England were invited to announce the winners and present each shortlisted author with a portfolio of art and writing from readers inspired by the books on the shortlist. The Arden group did a brilliant job of announcing the winner for the Older Readers category (Jennifer Killick's *Dread Wood*) and presenting her with her portfolio.

For the full list of winning books, visit the FCBG's website at [Children's Book Award 2023 – The Federation of Children's Book Groups \(fcbg.org.uk\)](https://www.fcbg.org.uk)



