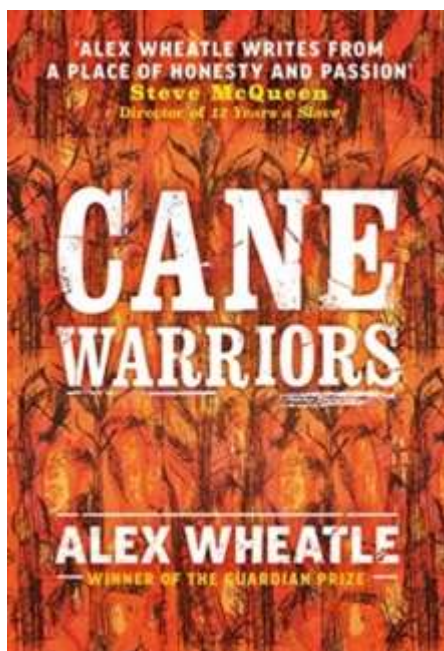


Bournside Community Book Club

A book club for all students, staff and families on Thursdays after school in the Library. Our first meeting takes place on Thursday 25th November, 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

First book (November 2021) – ‘Cane Warriors’ by Alex Wheatle



You may have seen his life-story dramatized by Steve McQueen recently for the BBC film series Small Axe, or read ‘Brixton Rock’ or his Congton Knights series of books. This latest novel has been heralded by many as his best yet.

‘Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer, Misser Donaldson. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches . . . Irresistible, gripping and unforgettable, Cane Warriors follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.’

Brutal, unforgiving narrative, and speech written in patois may be hard to swallow, but this is an important and powerful read. Fantastic stuff from a great author – Peters Books

Please note the novel does come with a content advisory warning: Contains some quite graphic violence and descriptions of flogging. Also references to female slaves being taken in the night and assaulted by the white overseers.

Parents and carers may feel that this book is not suitable for younger/less mature readers – I am tentatively recommending for Y9 students and above

Please email Mr Cratchley (mrc@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk) by Thursday 18th November to confirm a place. A £5 deposit is required via School Gateway and will be returned should you choose not to keep the book.

Notes: This Book Club is run in conjunction with the Reading Teachers=Reading Pupils project run by the Cheltenham Literature Festival. A keynote speech by the author is available here <https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/education/take-part/reading-teachers-reading-pupils/rtrp-teachers-page/> and there will be an opportunity to see one of the authors from the series at the festival next year.