

## Autumn News 2014

**Rugby Academy : Combat Zone**, the first book in my new [Rugby Academy](#) series launches on 15 October 2014. You can read the first chapter [here](#).

The first book, [Combat Zone](#), is set at a boarding school where rugby is the big game and a welcome distraction for many of the children whose RAF parents are in serving in the Middle East conflict.

Books two and three are published next year in time for the Rugby World Cup, which England and Wales will host in autumn 2015.



### Rugby Reading Game

In 2015, I will be touring rugby-loving schools with my [Rugby Reading Game](#). If you are interested in a visit to build on the excitement around the Rugby World Cup hosted by England and Wales in autumn 2015, please contact me.



### WW1 Centenary resources

Please have a look at [www.readingwar.co.uk](http://www.readingwar.co.uk). It features three Barrington Stoke books set during WW1, including my book [Over the Line](#).

The site is designed to be accessible to a range of children, with lots of video content and short, punchy stories, diaries and other specially-created reading materials. There are activities linked to the videos, teachers' guides, playscripts, downloadable posters.

You can see videos of my researching the story on the battlefields where the book is set and at the grave of one of my characters.

You can read my blog about a school that is using the book and the website as a class read this autumn.

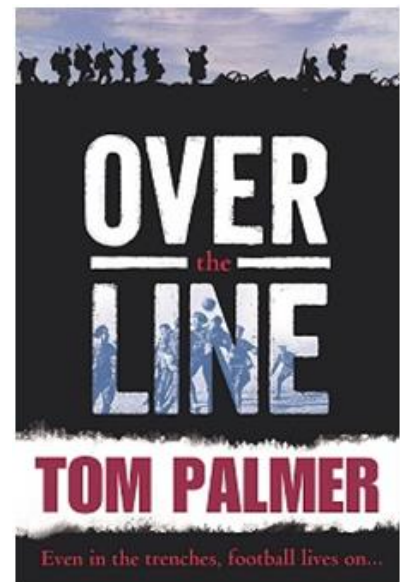
*"Over the Line shows the special place of football in creating a whole regiment during the first world war"* **The Guardian**

### Come and say hello

I am at Cheltenham Book Festival on 11th October at 3 p.m. I'll be running a Rugby v Football event.

I'll also be at Birmingham Central Library on 27th October and at the Exetreme Festival in Exeter on 28th October.

Click [here](#) for more.



## Awards News

[Ghost Stadium](#) has just won **Leicester Libraries Our Best Book Award 2014** thanks to voting by children across the area.

[Over the Line](#) has been selected for **Exeter's City Read** for 2014.

[Ghost Stadium](#) has also been selected for the new **Bookbuzz** reading programme from Booktrust, which supports schools to encourage reading for pleasure, independent choice and develop a whole school reading culture.

Click [here](#) for more.

Thanks for reading!

Tom

