

# Library News



**CROWN HILLS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
*A Specialist Sports College*

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# Summer Reading

It is only a few weeks until the end of the school year and then the summer holidays will be upon us. If you would like to keep reading whilst the school is closed, here are a few suggestions:

- Borrow e-books from the school e-library: this is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even during school holidays.
- Visit your local public library. If you are not yet a member, why not sign up? It is free to join with no identification needed if you are under 16 years. Membership will allow you to:
- Borrow and Reserve Books
- Download eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines
- Use library computers
- Access online information and reference materials
- Drop in to Homework Help/Study Support Sessions

You can find out more at the Leicester City Council Libraries Website:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/libraries-and-community-centres/libraries/>

Younger members of the family can also take part in the Summer Reading Challenge run through the public library which is open to all children aged 4 to 11 years. Delivered in partnership with Create, a leading charity bringing the creative arts to those who need it most, this year's Challenge, 'Marvellous Makers', aims to fire up children's imaginations and unleash storytelling and creativity through the power of reading.

From June to September, children taking part in 'Marvellous Makers' can discover new stories, join in with free activities at the library, and explore their creativity – from junk modelling to music, dance to drawing and painting.

To take part, you can drop into your local public library and let them know that you would like to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. They will get you signed up for 'Marvellous Makers', help you find books to borrow, and provide you with fun reading activities to get you started.

The Challenge and activity cards are available to access through the online digital platform, <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>, to allow those with limited physical access to the library to join in. By participating in the challenge, young people will have the opportunity to explore new reading material, develop skills, and discover new interests.

Blue Peter will also be encouraging primary school children across the UK to join this year's Summer Reading challenge on CBBC and iPlayer with creative activities and features from the Blue Peter Book Club: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>





# Library News

Welcome to the latest edition of Library News. This termly newsletter will keep you up to date with all the news, reviews and events associated with the library. It has been a busy term in the library. In this last edition of the 2023/2024 school year, we look back at the activities that have been going on, as well as look forward to the summer holidays.



Stephanie Vann  
Librarian

## Have you tried ebooks ?

As well as the physical books in the school library, Crown Hills students also have access to ebooks in the school eLibrary. Ebooks are electronic books which can be read on a smartphone, tablet or computer. They can be accessed from anywhere and at any time.



To get started:

1. On your smartphone, computer or tablet at home, download the ePlatform by Wheelers app from the app store of your device or go to the website: <https://eplatform.co/uk>
2. Go to Find Libraries and search for Crown Hills Community College. Select Crown Hills Community College from the results and it will take you to our e-Library.
3. Sign in with your Crown Hills username and password – this is the same one you use to login to the school computers. You can now browse, borrow and read!





# Student book Reviews

## 'Murder at Twilight' by Fleur Hitchcock

This is a great book full of suspense which leads you to an unusual plot twist – one you never would have actually thought of! Although this book is surprisingly loaded with mystery, it leaves you thinking about what happened to one of the characters as it does not fully explain how his dead body ended up in an abandoned car.

Book Review by Rushda

## 'The Boy Whose Wishes Came True' by Helen Rutter

It was very funny and interesting. Overall, a really great book. I would recommend it to people who like funny books..

Book Review by Ismail

## 'Oh Maya Gods' by Maz Evans

This is a flavourful read. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would recommend it to those mythology lovers.

Book Review by Tayyibah

## 'Where the River Takes Us' by Lesley Parr

The book is awesome. There is so much adventure in it when they are on a journey to find a special cat. I totally think others should read it.

Book Review by Muhammad

## 'How (not) to be strong' by Alex Scott

This poignant memoir chronicles the author's journey of finding strength in vulnerability. Through personal anecdotes and reflections, Scott explores the societal pressure to appear strong and how embracing vulnerability can lead to true resilience and authentic connection. The book offers insightful lessons on self-acceptance and the power of vulnerability in navigating life's challenges.

Book Review by Ayaan

## 'The Selection' by Kiera Cass

This book was a perfect blend of dystopia and romance. The character of America was beautifully developed. Seeing her overcome challenges and staying true to her morals and beliefs was really refreshing to see. This is a binge-worthy series and you are missing out if you haven't read it.

Book Review by Zoya

# CHCC Top 10 Current Most Borrowed Books



1. Bite Risk by S. J. Wills
2. Hetty and the Battle of the Books by Anna James
3. The Piano at the Station by Helen Rutter
4. Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan
5. Away with Words by Sophie Cameron
6. Tom Gates: Five Star Stories by Liz Pichon
7. Bad Influence by Tamsin Winter
8. The Midnight Game by Cynthia Murphy
9. Steady for This by Nathanael Lessore
10. The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

## CHCC Most Active Readers by Number of Books Borrowed (Physical and E-Books)

Yr 7 Sumaia Shahajhan 70

Yr 8 Aaliyah Anzad 81

Yr 9 Hamza Manjothi 9S

Yr 10 Fizzah Machar 10S

Yr 11 Jalpesh Chunilal 11H  
Aliya Ibrahim 11S  
Khadijah Nagra 11S

## CHCC Most Active Form Groups by Number of Students Reading

Yr 7 – 7W

Yr 8 – 8N

Yr 9 – 9R

Yr 10 – 10R

Yr 11 – 11S





## 9 FOR 9 book challenge

Between October and February, Year 9 students at Crown Hills Community College took part in the 9 for 9 Book Challenge organised by Creative Learning Services. The books read as part of this challenge were selected by librarians at Creative Learning Services specifically for their appeal to Year 9 students.

They were encouraged to broaden their reading horizons by exploring a variety of genres and styles from adventure, fantasy, mystery and horror to contemporary and historical, and tackling a number of themes including prejudice, identity, family conflict, grief and politics. We hope these books inspired our students, engaged their minds, inspired critical thinking, and ignited their passion for reading.

But which book was most popular with our students? To find out, we asked participants to award marks out of five to each book they read. The results were combined to create the CHCC Top 9 for 9 for 9 2023/4. We take great pleasure in announcing that the most popular book was 'HappyHead' by Josh Silver. Where did your favourite come in our chart?

1. HappyHead
2. Read Between the Lies
3. The Haunting of Tyrese Walker
4. Her Dark Wings
5. Rebel Skies
6. Steady for This
7. Truth Be Told
8. A Million to One
9. Ghosted

All students who read and reviewed at least one of the shortlisted books were awarded participation certificates for their achievement.



## Word Millionaires

Students in years 7 and 8 who show commitment to their reading homework and Accelerated Reader quizzes have the opportunity to become Word Millionaires. To achieve this, they must read and pass the quizzes on several books to read more than one million words in total.

So far this school year, 34 students have become Word Millionaires, of which 13 have also become Word Multi-Millionaires by reading more than two million words. We have also recognised two Pentamillionaires who have read more than five million words. This is an amazing achievement; well done to those students.

Students in year 8 who become Word Millionaires in both years 7 and 8, as well as Word Multi-millionaire in at least one of those years, will receive the Reading Ambassador badge. This award recognises their continued commitment to reading. So far, these have been awarded to two students. Congratulations!

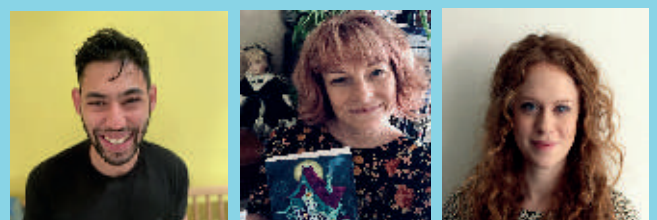
We hope to recognise more reading commitment before the end of the year.

## Author Talks

Several online author talks have been held as part of the 9 for 9 Book Challenge and Reading Rampage, which have given an opportunity for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to hear about the writing process and to ask questions of a published author.

On February 14th, students in year 9 heard from Nathanael Lessore, author of 'Steady for This', shortlisted for the Creative Learning Services 9 for 9 Book Challenge and the Carnegie Medal. Nathanael talked about how he came to write this book and provided creative writing advice, which will hopefully prove beneficial as these students progress into KS4.

In March, students in years 7 and 8 heard from Anna James, author of 'Hetty and the Battle of the Books' and Emma Read, author of 'The House Trap'. Both authors talked about their writing inspiration, as well as other aspects of their lives. Anna James discussed her former career as a librarian and why she considered libraries to be important, as well as the importance of individuals using their voice to speak up and make a difference within their community, whilst Emma Read gave a behind-the-scenes look at book publication and illustration.



# Carnegie Shadowing Scheme 2024

Students from years 9 and 10 have been participating in this year's Carnegie Shadowing Scheme between the end of March and the end of May 2024. The Yoto Carnegies celebrate outstanding achievement in children's writing and illustration and are unique in being judged by children's and youth librarians, with the respective Shadowers' Choice Medals voted for by children and young people.

Participating students have been reading the shortlisted books (which they have been able to borrow from the school library and e-library), and shortly will get together to discuss the books with one another and vote for their favourite to win the Shadowers' Choice Medals.

Crown Hills Community College students' votes will be combined with those of other students from across the UK to determine the winner of the 2024 Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal. This will be announced alongside the Judges' Choice for the 2024 Carnegie Medal on 20th June 2024.

There are eight books on this year's Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist, which this year is dominated by poetry with three novels written in verse as well as a poetry collection by prolific children's writer Nicola Davies, which highlights the real-life experiences of refugees shared with the support of charity Refugee Trauma Initiative.

The first of the verse novels is an historical novel with a focus on the era of pre-slavery. 'The Door of No Return' by New York Times bestselling author Kwame Alexander follows 11-year-old Kofi who is taken away from everything he loves in the hope of freedom. Whilst Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho's 'The Boy Lost in the Maze', portrays a boy's journey into manhood that blends the ancient legend of the Minotaur with the quest of a modern-day teenager to find his biological father.

Tia Fisher's debut 'Crossing the Line' is the third verse novel on the shortlist and is based on a true story about how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Emotive and believable, it is told with authenticity, with the language adding vibrant meaning to an engaging story.

Journeys, literal and metaphorical, are a common theme, with books encouraging empathy and hope and promoting an understanding of historical and contemporary global issues, including the environment. Award-winning author Zillah Bethell earns her place on the shortlist with 'The Song Walker', a story set in the Australian Outback about discovery and courage. A physical journey across the Outback is entwined with a metaphorical emotional journey as two girls go in search of answers about their identity whilst hiding secrets from each other.

'Away with Words' by Sophie Cameron explores the importance of communication as two girls – one who speaks little English, and another with selective mutism – use the discarded words of others to communicate and write poetry.

'Safiyah's War' is the debut novel of Hiba Noor Khan. This story is an account of an often-overlooked aspect of WWII history, which shows empathy in action based on the forgotten heroes of the Grand Mosque of Paris who helped hide and protect Jews.

Debut author Nathanael Lessore balances serious issues with humour in 'Steady for This', the story of a wannabe rapper who is humiliated by an MC Battle gone wrong. With original use of language and raps featured throughout, this story has relatable themes of peer pressure, social inequality and new friendships.





# This Months Recommended Reads....

Year  
7



## Blackbeard's Treasure – Iszi Lawrence

1718. Abigail lives with her father in the Caribbean. Her clothes are made of finest muslin so she can't play in them. She isn't even allowed to go out alone. But when pirates attack Abigail's life will change forever.

Available from the school library and as an e-book.

Year  
8



## Percy Jackson and the Chalice of the Gods – Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson has saved the world multiple times but these days the son of Poseidon is hoping for a regular final year at school. Too bad the Greek gods have other plans. The cupbearer of the gods, Ganymede, is missing his golden chalice. One sip from the cup will turn any mortal into a powerful god. And the old gods do not take kindly to newbies. Can Percy and his friends find the chalice before it falls into the wrong hands?

Available from the school library and as an e-book.

Year  
9



## The Lighthouse – Alex Bell

From the second they set foot on Bird Rock, Jess and Rosie feel that something's wrong. Nightmares haunt their dreams and there seems to be someone, or something, else with them in the lighthouse. Counting down the days until they can leave, Jess and Rosie decide to investigate. But when Rosie disappears, the countdown takes on a new meaning. Especially when no one but Jess remembers Rosie at all.

Available from the school library and as an e-book.

Year  
10

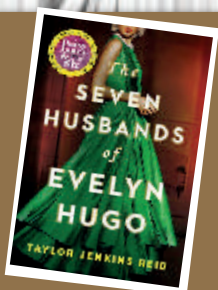


## The Fellowship of the Ring – J. R. R. Tolkien

In a sleepy village in the Shire, a young hobbit is entrusted with an immense task. He must make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ruling Ring of Power – the only thing that prevents the Dark Lord Sauron's evil dominion.

Available from the school library and as an e-book.

Year  
11



## The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo – Taylor Jenkins Reid

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now? Summoned to Evelyn's luxurious apartment, Monique listens in fascination as the actress tells her story and begins to feel a very real connection to the legendary star, but as Evelyn's story near its conclusion, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways.

Available from the school library and as an e-book.

