

Library News

June 2025



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. This year's Challenge, 'Story Garden', aims to inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. From July to September, children taking part in 'Story Garden' can discover new stories, join in with free activities at the library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

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 'Story Garden', 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.



THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

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 2024/2025 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!



Reading Rampage

The most borrowed book of Reading Rampage 2025 at Crown Hills was 'The Cheat Book' by Ramzee, but which book was the most popular with our students? To find out, we asked our year 7 students to score each of the shortlisted books they had read out of five. These results were combined to create the CHCC Top 8 for Reading Rampage 2025.

We take great pleasure in announcing that the most popular book of Reading Rampage 2025 was 'The Cheat Book' by Ramzee.

Where did your favourite come in our Top 8?

CHCC Top 8

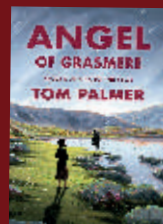
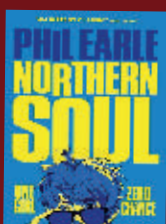
1. 'The Cheat Book' by Ramzee
2. 'Nush and the Stolen Emerald' by Jasbinder Bilan
3. 'Like a Girl' by Rebecca Westcott
4. 'King of Nothing' by Nathanael Lessore
5. 'Read, Scream, Repeat' edited by Jennifer Killick
6. 'Angel of Grasmere' by Tom Palmer
7. 'Northern Soul' by Phil Earle
8. 'The Swifts' by Beth Lincoln



These results were submitted to the Reading Rampage 2025 organisers and combined with those from other participating schools to determine the overall winner which was... Nush and the Stolen Emerald by Jasbinder Bilan!

All Crown Hills students who read at least one Reading Rampage book and submitted a short review of it to Miss Vann will receive a participation certification.

Reading Rampage 2026 will be starting in the New Year and will be open to all students in year 8, so keep an eye open for more details.



CHCC Top 10 Current Most Borrowed Books



1. King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore
2. The Things We Leave Behind by Clare Furniss
3. All That It Ever Meant by Blessing Musariri
4. The Cheat Book by Ramzee
5. Little Bang by Kelly McCaughrain
6. The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow
7. Play by Luke Palmer
8. Catch Your Death by Raven Guron
9. Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald
10. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

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

Yr 7

Yr 7 – Younes Belala 7S

Yr 8

Yr 8 – Numair Ahmad 8A

Yr 9

Yr 9 – Fatimah Zahra Wahab 9N

Yr 10

Yr 10 – Hamza Manjothi 10S

Yr 11

Yr 11 – Ahmed Mukardam 11A
& Umar Mohammed Hussain
11O (joint)

CHCC Most Active Form Groups by Number of Students Reading

Yr 7 – 7H

Yr 8 – 8C & 8N (Joint)

Yr 9 – 9S

Yr 10 – 10A & 10H (Joint)

Yr 11 – 11C & 11N (joint)

Carnegie Shadowing Scheme 2025

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 2025. 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.

There are eight books on this year's Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist, which this year empower young people by exploring complex emotions such as grief, low mood, anger and shame with empathy, sensitivity and hope.

Masculinity and what it is to be a young man today has emerged as an important theme with many writers reflecting the marginalised perspectives of boys and teenagers from disenfranchised communities. The only debut on the Medal for Writing shortlist, *Glasgow Boys* by former NHS worker Margaret McDonald, explores mental health, trauma and inequality through the precarious friendship between two boys growing up in foster care. Fellow Scottish author Brian Conaghan's *Treacle Town* is an authentic and realistic story exploring poverty and lack of opportunity as a teenage boy embraces slam poetry to escape gang violence and secure a hopeful future.

Luke Palmer's authentic and raw young adult novel *'Play'* is a story of disaffected youth, friendship and peer pressure as four boys navigate society's expectations of what it means to be a man. Masculinity is also explored in South Londoner Nathanael Lessore, who makes the shortlist for the second year running, with his *'King of Nothing'*, a story about a self-proclaimed bad boy whose unlikely new friendship makes him question his priorities, told with warmth, humour and authenticity.

Poet and writer Matt Goodfellow is shortlisted for *'The Final Year'*, a verse novel about change and adaptation where a young boy's love of reading and writing is encouraged by a teacher as a way to process anger and find his voice.

Zimbabwean writer Blessing Musariri's *'All That It Ever Meant'* explores cultural identity and loss as a neurodivergent girl moves between continents with her family after the death of her mother. Whilst Belfast writer Kelly McCaughrain has been shortlisted for *'Little Bang'*, a warm and wise Northern Irish romance exploring teen pregnancy and a young woman's right to choose her own future.

Clare Furniss's dystopian novel *'The Things We Leave Behind'* is set in a near-future London at the epicentre of the refugee crisis and follows a teenager and her sister on a treacherous journey to safety. The judges highlighted its sense of 'hope' for the future and 'the possibility of new beginnings' – a feature shared by all the books shortlisted for the Medal for Writing.

Participating students have been reading the shortlisted books (which they have been able to borrow from the school library), and recently got together to discuss the books with one another and vote for their favourite to win the Shadowers' Choice Medals. Students spoke up in favour of several of the books, but after an animated discussion, the majority chose to vote for *'King of Nothing'*.

Crown Hills Community College students' votes will be combined with those of other students from across the UK to determine the winner of the 2025 Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal. This will be announced alongside the Judges' Choice for the 2025 Carnegie Medal on 19th June 2025.



Reading Achievement

Students in years 7 and 8 who show commitment to their reading homework and Accelerated Reader quizzes have the opportunity to receive awards for Reading Achievement.

So far this school year:

41 students have received the Bronze Award for Reading Achievement

54 students have received the Silver Award for Reading Achievement

14 students have received the Gold Award for Reading Achievement

50 students have become Word Half-Millionaires

34 students have become Word Millionaires

14 students have become Word Multimillionaires

In addition, 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 seven students. Congratulations!

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



Magazines

Did you know that, as well as books, the library also had magazines? A selection of popular magazines catering to a variety of interests – including BBC History, National Geographic Traveller, Horrible Histories, Top Gear, PC Gamer, Empire, How It Works and All About Space – are available for students to read in the library.



This Months Recommended Reads....

Year
7



Year 7 – Bird Boy – Catherine Bruton

Will is sent to stay with his uncle in the mountains. After years trapped in a high-rise flat, with only birds for company, Will doesn't know how he'll survive a place like this, but he soon finds solace in the woods, when he's surrounded by birdsong. When Will finds an osprey with a broken wing, he is determined to save her. As Will helps Whitetip to grow and to heal, he finds a strength inside himself that he never knew he had. Maybe, finally, Will can find a way to take flight too...

Available from the school e-library.

Year
8



Year 8 – The Reappearance of Rachel Price – Holly Jackson

Bel has lived her whole life in the shadow of her mom's mysterious disappearance. Sixteen years ago, Rachel Price vanished and young Bel was the only witness. Rachel is gone, presumed dead. The case is dragged up from the past when the Price family agree to a true crime documentary. Bel can't wait for filming to end, for life to go back to normal. But then Rachel Price reappears, and life will never be normal again.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
9



Year 9 – The Luminaries – Susan Dennard

Hemlock Falls isn't like other towns. You won't find it on a map, your phone won't work here, and the forest outside town might just kill you. Winnie Wednesday wants nothing more than to join the Luminaries, the ancient order that protects Winnie's town from the monsters and nightmares that rise in the forest of Hemlock Falls every night. But not all monsters can be slain, and not all nightmares are confined to the dark.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
10



Year 10 – The End Crowns All – Bea Fitzgerald

When Cassandra's patron god, Apollo, offers her the gift of prophecy – and all the power that comes with it – she seizes the opportunity. But when she fails to uphold her end of the bargain, she discovers just how very far she has to fall. No one believes her visions, which all seem to be of one girl – a girl who is going to start a war. Helen fled Sparta in pursuit of love – but is finding it elusive. Now she must navigate the fierce politics and danger of the Trojan court – including from its princess, who seems intent on driving her from the city.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
11



Year 11 – As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow – Zoulfa Katouh

Salama Kassab was a pharmacy student when the cries for freedom broke out in Syria. She still had her parents and her big brother; she still had her home. She was even supposed to be meeting a boy to talk about marriage. Now Salama volunteers at a hospital in Homs, helping the wounded who flood through the doors. She knows that she should be thinking about leaving, but who will help the people of her beloved country if she doesn't? Soon, Salama must learn to see the events around her for what they truly are and decide how she, too, will cry for Syria's freedom.

Available from the school e-library.

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