

Library News

June 2026



CROWN HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A Specialist Sports College



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Book 8 Challenge



Year 8 students have been taking part in our Book 8 Reading Challenge. Eight books chosen with year 8 students in mind. From adventure to horror and mystery, romance to fantasy and science fiction, they were encouraged to explore a variety of genres and styles.

Certificates and merits have been awarded to all students who read and reviewed the books. Particular congratulations go to Sana 80 who read and reviewed all eight books.

Students will be encouraged to rate the books that they have read and decide which of the books is number one amongst CHCC students.



7 for 7 Book Challenge

The most borrowed book of 7 for 7 at Crown Hills was 'The Line They Drew Through Us' by Hiba Noor Khan, 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 7 for 7 for 7.

We take great pleasure in announcing that the most popular book 7 for 5 was 'Murder! By Narwhal' by Alex T. Smith.

Where did your favourite come in our Top 7?

CHCC Top 7

1. Murder! By Narwhal!
2. The Boy With the Big Decisions
3. The Zombie Project
4. The Line They Drew Through Us
5. Dark Flood
6. Relic Hamilton Genie Hunter
7. A History of My Weird



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 2025/2026 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!



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, 'Read to the Beat', aims to inspire children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity. From July to September, children taking part in 'Read to the Beat' 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 'Read to the Beat', 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.

Reading Achievement



Students in KS3 who show commitment to their reading homework and Accelerated Reader quizzes have the opportunity to gain acknowledgement for their reading achievement. So far this school year, we have awarded certificates and badges out to 207 students including:

- 8 Reading Ambassadors
- 3 Word Multimillionaire
- 29 Word Millionaires
- 69 Word Half-Millionaires
- 3 Diamond Awards for Reading Achievement
- 6 Platinum Awards for Reading Achievement
- 14 Gold Awards for Reading Achievement
- 41 Silver Awards for Reading Achievement
- 34 Bronze Awards for Reading Achievement



Congratulations to all of them!

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

CHCC Top 10 Current Most Borrowed Books



1. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
2. Scavengers by Darren Simpson
3. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Partypoofer by Jeff Kinney
4. Lightning Strike by Tanya Landman
5. Wolf Siren by Beth O'Brien
6. A Box Full of Murders by Janice Hallett
7. The Cheat Book by Ramzee
8. Dork Diaries: Sister Showdown by Rachel Renee Russell
9. Powerless by Lauren Roberts
10. XOXO by Axie Oh

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

Yr 7 Yr 7 – Yusuf Admani 7A

Yr 8 Yr 8 – Hajar Dahbi Mazi 8N

Yr 9 Yr 9 – Numair Ahmad 9A

Yr 10 Yr 10 – Ruqayyah Vania 10W

Yr 11 Yr 11 – Hamza Manjothi 11S

CHCC Most Active Form Groups by Number of Students Reading

Yr 7 – 7O and 7R (Joint)
 Yr 8 – 8L
 Yr 9 – 9I and 9N (Joint)
 Yr 10 – 10I
 Yr 11 – 11I and 11L (joint)

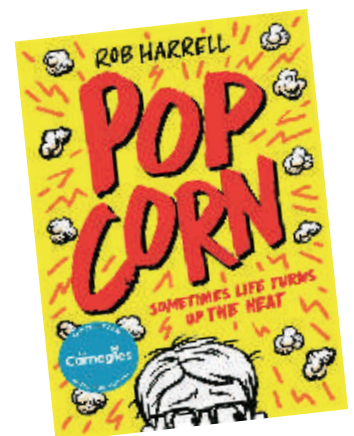
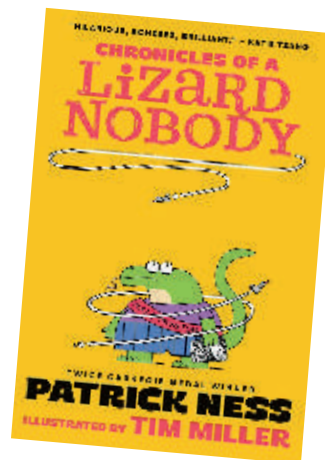
Carnegie Shadowing Scheme 2026

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 2026. 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 recently got together to discuss the books with one another and vote for their favourite to win the Shadowers' Choice Medals. This year, that was 'Wolf Siren' by debut author Beth O'Brien, a reimagining of the fairy tale, 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

Crown Hills Community College students' votes will be combined with those of other students from across the UK to determine the winner of the 2026 Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal. This will be announced alongside the Judges' Choice for the 2026 Carnegie Medal on 23rd June 2026.

The Carnegies



National Year of Reading 2026

In 2026, everyone is being encouraged to 'Go All In' for the National Year of Reading. Across the UK, children are reading less than they used to and stories aren't getting the same space they once did. And it's happening across all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers.

When reading drops, confidence, imagination and learning take a hit as well. Reading helps children focus, express themselves, develop their curiosity, and it gives families an opportunity to connect.

In 2026, a national spotlight is being put on reading and on the simplest way to help children enjoy it: connecting it to what they already love. From dinosaurs to dancing, from comics to cooking, passions make stories feel natural and fun.

At Crown Hills Community College, we understand the importance of reading and, alongside reading for homework in years 7 and 8, run a number of events and activities throughout the year to encourage reading both for pleasure and for purpose.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a chance to help our students discover new worlds, grow confidence and build a lifelong love of reading.



Magazines

Did you know that, as well as books, the library also has 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 Science Focus – are available for students to read in the library.



This Months Recommended Reads...

Year
7



Year 7 – Escape Room – Christopher Edge

When twelve-year-old Ami arrives at The Escape, she thinks it's just a game - the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. Meeting her teammates, Adjoa, Ibrahim, Oscar and Min, Ami learns from the Host that they have been chosen to save the world and they must work together to find the Answer. But as he locks them inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
8



Year 8 – The Galileo Heist – Sam Sedgman

Every summer holiday, Isaac Turner spends three weeks with his grandfather, Ferdinand, at his house in Italy, and this year his best friend Hattie is coming too. Everything points to a fantastic summer, until Ferdinand is arrested for the theft of millions of euros of jewellery. But Ferdinand hasn't stolen anything – yet. Drawn into a daring heist during a solar eclipse, Isaac and Hattie must figure out who is telling the truth, and who is using the cover of darkness to deceive them.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
9

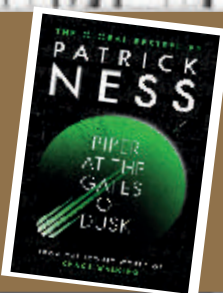


Year 9 – Thirst – Darren Simpson

Nobody talks about the strange happenings in Maimsbury. No one speaks of the hooded figures glimpsed in the woods, nor the children's game that went so horribly wrong. But most of all, nobody dares whisper their doubts about the river they have worshipped for centuries. That is, until a tragedy leads to a blood-curdling discovery.

Available from the school e-library.

Year
10



Year 10 – Piper at the Gates of Dusk – Patrick Ness

In New World, there were no secrets. Everyone could hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming Noise. Then a cure came – one that the second generation took from birth. Peace descended, wars ended, communication was silenced. Until now . . .

Available from the school e-library.

Year
11



Year 11 – Project Hail Mary – Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission - and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he?

Available from the school e-library.