

Library News

January 2026



CROWN HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A Specialist Sports College



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Book 8 Challenge



A new reading challenge will be starting soon: Book 8! 8 books chosen with year 8 students in mind. From adventure to horror and mystery, romance to fantasy and science fiction, they will be encouraged to explore a variety of genres and styles. We hope these books will inspire our students, engage their minds, inspire critical thinking, and ignite their passion for reading. Copies of all of the books will be available to borrow from the school library. They will be exclusively available to year 8 students during the challenge.

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

Reading and reviewing these books is an eligible activity for Brettow with participation certificates being awarded, and there will also be opportunities to take part in activities and contests linked to the books on the shortlist.



7 for 7 Book Challenge

Since November, Year 7 students at Crown Hills Community College have been taking part in the 7 for 7 Book Challenge organised by Creative Learning Services. The shortlisted books have been selected by librarians at Creative Learning Services specifically for their appeal to Year 7 students.

They are being encouraged to broaden their reading horizons by exploring a variety of genres and styles from adventure, fantasy, and mystery to contemporary and historical, and tackle a number of themes including prejudice, identity, the environment and politics. We hope these books will inspire our students, engage their minds, inspire critical thinking, and ignite their passion for reading. Copies of all of the books are available to borrow from the school library. They will be exclusively available to year 7 students during the challenge until February half term and then to all year groups afterwards.

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

Reading and reviewing these books is an eligible activity for Brettow with participation certificates being awarded, and there will also be multiple opportunities to take part in activities and contests linked to the books on the shortlist.



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. Last term was a busy time in the library and we have lots of activities planned for this term too, what with new reading challenges starting, World Book Day and more.



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!



National Year of Reading



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.

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 98 students including:

- 5 Word Millionaires
- 24 Word Half-Millionaires
- 3 Platinum Awards for Reading Achievement
- 8 Gold Awards for Reading Achievement
- 1 Silver Award for Reading Achievement
- 55 Bronze Awards for Reading Achievement



We also recently celebrated our first 3 Reading Ambassadors of the year, year 8 students who became Word Multi-Millionaires in year 7 and have repeated the feat by becoming Word Millionaires again in year 8. This award recognised their continued commitment to reading.

Congratulations to all of them!

We hope to recognise more reading commitment throughout the year.



CHCC Top 10 Current Most Borrowed Books



1. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
2. The Cheat Book by Ramzee
3. King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore
4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End by Jeff Kinney
5. Steady for This by Nathanael Lessore
6. Bunny vs Monkey: The Great Big Glitch by Jamie Smart
7. Finn Jones Was Here by Simon James Green
8. Girl Next Door by Karen Moncrieffe
9. The Royal Rebel by Bali Rai
10. The Boy With the Big Decisions by Helen Rutter

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

CHCC Most Active Form Groups by Number of Students Reading

7U
80
9I
10H and 10S (Joint)
11A, 11I and 11U (joint)

Yr 7 Muhammad-Yusuf Lambat 7U

Yr 8 Aaminah Bukera 8S

Yr 9 Fatimah Ismail 9N

Yr 10 Fatimah Zahra Wahab 10N

Yr 11 Hamza Manjothi 11S

World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

World Book Day will be here on 5th March 2026 and Crown Hills Community College will once again be participating in this annual celebration of reading with competitions and other events for students to join in with. More details about these will be shared in school so please keep your eyes open for those.

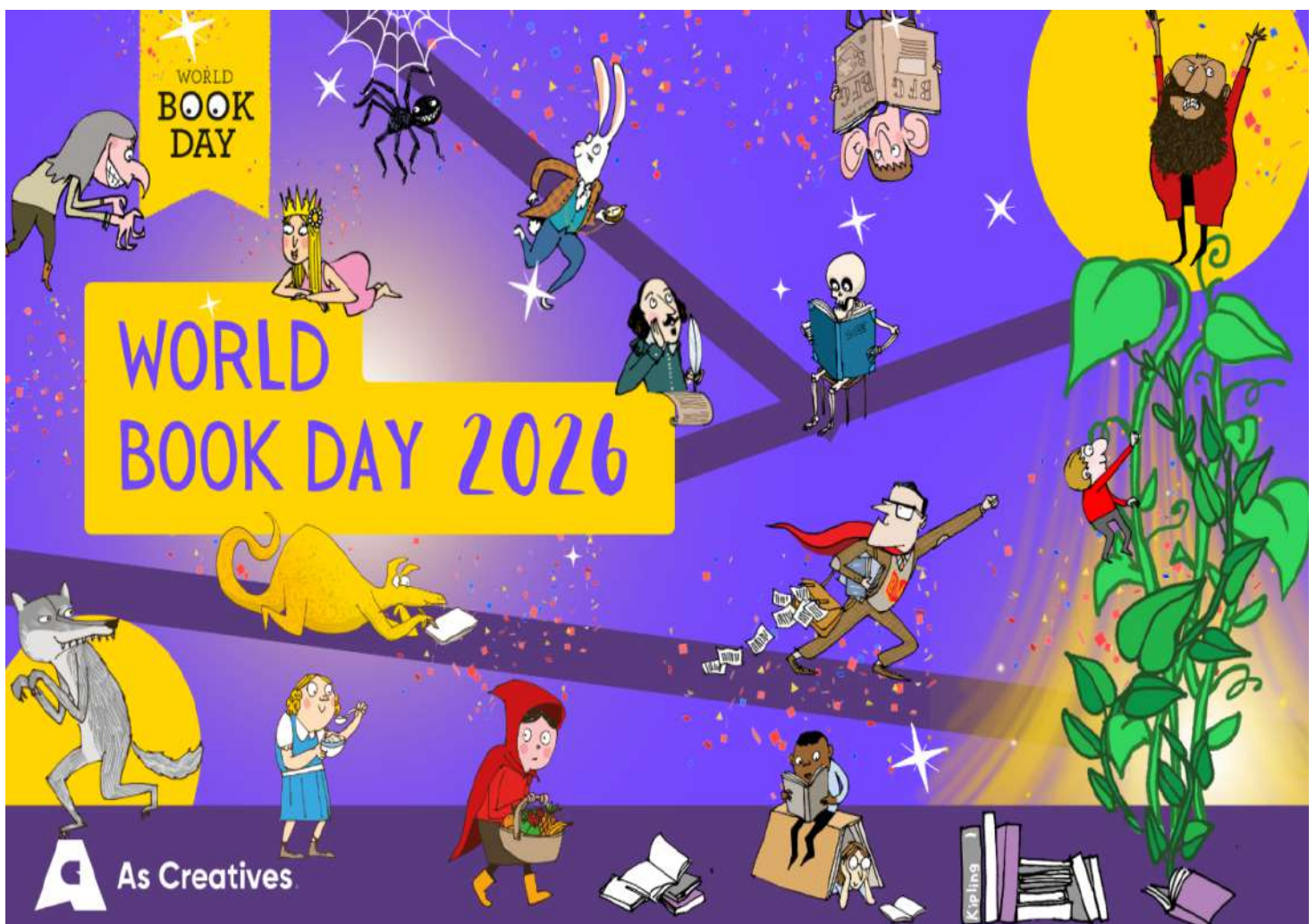
Thanks to National Book Tokens, World Book Day, in partnership with schools all over the country, distribute over 15 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children and young people (that's almost one for every child/young person under 18 in the UK and Ireland) every year on World Book Day – and CHCC students will be amongst them.

The £1 book tokens can be swapped for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books available from participating booksellers or used to get £1 off any full price book or audiobook instead (as long as the book or audiobook costs at least £2.99). Please note that the token cannot be redeemed online.

The £1 books are also available in braille and audio via the RNIB (Tel: 0303 123 999) and large print via Guide Dogs (Tel: 0118 9838275).

World Book Day book tokens will be valid between 12th February and 15th March 2026.

Participating booksellers include Waterstones and WH Smith's, as well as major supermarket chains such as Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons and Tesco, so please keep an eye open for the books and don't forget to use your book token.



Author Visit

On World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, Darren Simpson - author of 'Scavengers', 'The Memory Thieves', 'Furthermoor' and 'Thirst' - will be visiting us at Crown Hills Community College to speak to our Year 7 students about his career as an author and the inspiration behind his books. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to hear from a published author and to be inspired to read for pleasure.



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 Month's Recommended Reads....

Year 7



Year 7 – Champions of the Galaxy – Tolá Okogwu

When a powerful group of aliens threaten Earth, a mysterious species called the Onni offers humanity hope. But there's a catch. Children from across the planet must compete in a series of trials set on a distant planet. For Kola, who has long dreamed of going into space, it's the chance of a lifetime. But as secrets unravel and tensions rise, Kola and his team must decide who to trust and what it really means to be a Champion.

Available from the school library.

Year 8



Year 8 – The Court of the Dead – Rick Riordan

It's been three months since demigods Nico di Angelo and Will Solace returned from Tartarus, and there hasn't been a single quest for them in all that time. So, when Nico's half sister Hazel asks them to come to Camp Jupiter to help with an 'issue', Nico shadow-jumps at the chance to do something. What Hazel didn't tell the boys is that she's providing a haven for a group of monsters who've escaped the Underworld!

Available from the school library.

Year 9



Year 9 – The Devouring Light – Kat Ellis

Naya will do anything to make her mother, the General, proud. So when her mother asks her to take on a When Haden and her rival, Deacon – alongside their bands – are stranded on their way to a rock festival, she thinks missing the gig is the worst thing that could happen. She's wrong. Marooned in treacherous swamplands with no way out, the group stumbles upon an eerie, decaying house. It seems like a safe haven, a place to wait out the storm. The house, however, isn't just abandoned – it's been waiting for them

Available from the school library.

Year 10

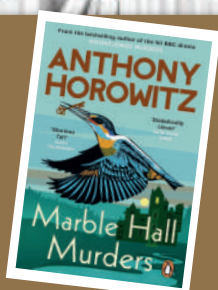


Year 10 – Spinning Silver – Naomi Novik Smith

Miryem is the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders, but her father is too kind-hearted to collect his debts. They face poverty, until Miryem hardens her own heart and takes up his work in their village. Her success creates a rumour that she can turn silver into gold, attracting the fairy king of winter himself. He sets her an impossible challenge – and if she fails, she will die. Yet if she triumphs, it may mean a fate worse than death.

Available from the school library.

Year 11



Year 11 – Marble Hall Murders – Anthony Horowitz

Susan Ryeland has edited two novels about the famous detective, Atticus Pünd, and both times she's come close to being killed. Now she's back in England and she's been persuaded to work on a third. The new 'continuation' novel is by Eliot Crace, grandson of Miriam Crace who was the biggest selling children's author in the world until her death exactly twenty years ago. Eliot believes that Miriam was deliberately poisoned. And when he tells Susan that he has hidden the identity of Miriam's killer inside his book, Susan knows she's in trouble once again.

Available from the school library.

