



HCCS LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Welcome to our 3rd Annual Literature Festival!

This exciting week is dedicated to celebrating all things literacy, bringing together students, teachers, and the wider community to explore the magic of reading, writing, and storytelling. It's a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of literacy in our daily lives, and to inspire a love of books and language that can last a lifetime. We hope this festival sparks creativity, encourages new ideas, and reinforces the vital role literacy plays in both education and beyond!



Author Visits

Exploring Gothic Fiction: A Fascinating Visit with Author Alex Foulkes

We were thrilled to kick off the HCCS Literature Festival 2025 with a special visit from author Alex Foulkes! Alex hosted two engaging assemblies and led two interactive workshops for our Year 7 and 8 pupils. Her visit was a fantastic way to inspire creativity and a passion for writing, as she shared her journey as an author and gave students valuable insights into the world of gothic storytelling. It was an unforgettable start to our celebration of literacy!

Empowering Self-Confidence: An Inspiring Visit with Author Kimberly Whittam

We were also excited to welcome Kimberly Whittam to our school for a morning workshop focused on building self-confidence. As an advocate for positive self-image, Kimberly led a fun, interactive session that encouraged pupils to embrace their uniqueness and boost their self-esteem. The workshop was a huge hit with students, who enjoyed the engaging activities and thought-provoking discussions. It was an empowering experience that left everyone feeling inspired and ready to take on new challenges.



Virtual Author Workshops: Engaging with Inspiring Authors

Over the last two weeks, our students have had the exciting opportunity to participate in virtual author workshops during their LRC lessons. We wanted to ensure every student could engage with a carefully chosen author for their year group. Year 7 students joined Benjamin Dean, Year 8 students connected with Elle McNicoll, and Year 9 students worked with Ashley Hickson-Lovence. These sessions were a fantastic way to inspire creativity and ignite a love of literature. Thank you to all the authors for making these workshops so engaging and memorable for students.



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Competitions

First Ever WBD Bake Off: A Sweet Success!

Our first-ever World Book Day Bake Off was a huge hit, and we were blown away by the amazing entries! The creativity and skill on display were truly impressive, with each bake reflecting the spirit of the books that inspired them.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st Place – Cara D (Y8)

2nd Place – Sophie Brownhill (Y8)

3rd Place – Evie Rigden (Y8)

Well done to everyone who participated and made this event such a sweet success!



Book Cover Treasure Hunt: A Fun and Engaging Challenge!

Students recently took part in our exciting Book Cover Treasure Hunt, where they had to track down 24 staff members wearing book covers on their lanyards. The challenge was to identify the book title, author, and main character displayed. It was fantastic to see students from both KS3 and KS4 coming together, sparking conversations with staff, and sharing their love for books!



A big congratulations to **Tate W** in Year 7, who was the first student to complete the challenge. He was rewarded with a book of his choice and a sweet treat! All other students who completed the hunt also received a sweet treat for their efforts.

WBD Kahoot: Bigger and Better!

Our ever-popular World Book Day Kahoot returned this year, bigger and better than ever! Tutor groups went head-to-head in a fun-filled battle to see who would come out on top. Congratulations to the following tutor groups who performed best in their year groups!

- 7FO
- 8LF
- 9RM
- 10KW
- 11LB
- 12PR

Kahoot!

A special shout-out goes to our incredible LRC Assistants, who emerged as the overall winners after competing during their rewards breakfast.



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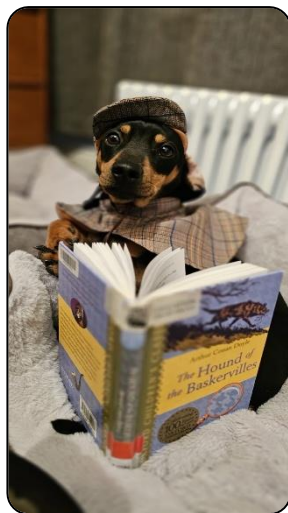


Teacher's Pets: A Fun-Filled Challenge!

This year, our most popular teacher activity put both staff and students to the test as they tried to guess the Teachers' Pets! The challenge had everyone guessing which pet belonged to which teacher, based on photos of their pets reading.

A big congratulations to **10LS** and **10CK**, who were crowned joint winners of the competition!

A huge thank you to all the staff who participated and shared adorable photos of their pets. It was a fantastic way to bring everyone together and celebrate our shared love for reading!



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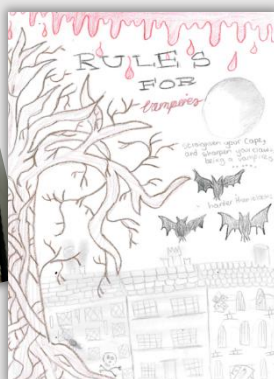
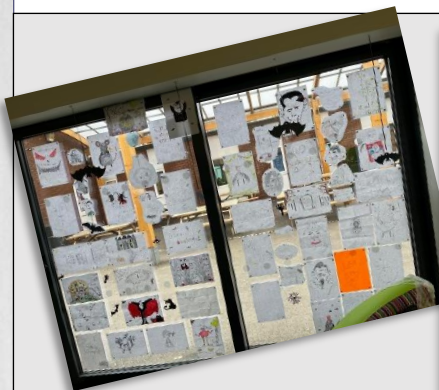
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Year 7 and 8 Art Competition: A Spooktacular Showcase!

We had an incredible response to our Year 7 and 8 art competition, with over 100 fantastic entries! Students were challenged to create artwork inspired by Alex Foulkes' books, and the results were truly impressive. Alex herself was blown away by the creativity on display, and the artwork was proudly showcased on the LRC windows during her visit.

While here, Alex chose her three favourite pieces of artwork. Congratulations to Leila G, Declan B, and Edith L (Year 7) for their outstanding efforts! Each of them received a spooky-inspired book and a goody bag as a reward.

Well done to everyone who participated and made this competition such a success!

House points will be awarded for each entry.



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The Power of Creative Writing

At HCCS, we believe that creative writing is not just about crafting stories; it's about nurturing imagination, boosting self-expression, and developing our critical thinking skills. Through creative writing, students can explore new worlds, express their thoughts, and communicate complex ideas in unique ways. It encourages us to step outside our comfort zones, think beyond the ordinary, and discover the endless possibilities of language.

Every year, we host a series of creative writing competitions to celebrate these skills and to inspire students to put pen to paper. These competitions provide a platform for students to showcase their talents, challenge themselves, and gain confidence in their writing abilities. They also foster a sense of community as we celebrate the diverse voices within our school.

We look forward to seeing the incredible creativity and talent that our students continue to share through these competitions and encourage everyone to participate.

Year 7 - Cliff McNish - Ghost Stories

Back by popular demand, our Year 7s took part in a short virtual writing workshop with Cliff McNish and were then set the challenge of writing a short ghost story. We were blown away by the entries we received, and these have now gone for judging — we can't wait to share our finalists with you soon!



Year 8 - Mark Grist - Poetry

Year 8 students were tasked with poetry writing alongside poet Mark Grist. After watching Mark's video 'The Women Across the Road from Me,' they were challenged to respond to his poem from an alternate viewpoint. We've loved reading their creative responses so far and, once again, can't wait to share the results with you all.



Year 9 - Remembering Nell

The Remembering Nell Creative Writing competition, our longest-running literary event, continues to honor the memory of former student Nell Jones, who tragically lost her life in the Manchester Bombing attack in 2017. Year 9 pupils were asked to enter a short story of their choice. Finalists will be announced shortly.



Year 10 - 13 - Flash Fiction

KS3 and KS4 students have been given a creative writing competition with a twist — the challenge to create Flash Fiction in just six words. Not something that can be done easily, I'm sure you can agree, but we're excited to see how our students rise to the challenge!



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Supporting Read for Good: Encouraging Reading for a Great Cause

Our Literacy Team are proudly supporting the charity Read for Good, which encourages children to read more while raising money for children's hospitals across the UK. Through their fundraising efforts this year, students are helping provide books and creative reading experiences to children who are in hospital. It's a fantastic way to promote the joy of reading while giving back to those in need. Thank you to all the students and staff who have supported this amazing cause so far!

Let's continue to read for good and make a difference together.

Thank you to our fabulous LRC Assistants for running our World Book Day bake sale, which raised £118.18.



Visit to Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School: A Pancake Day Celebration

Recently, Year 10 students Lily and Maisie accompanied Miss Moores on a heartwarming visit to Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School. The students shared books and poems themed around Pancake Day, tying in perfectly with the pre-school's own celebrations. The young children were engaged, actively participating in the stories and having a great time with the activities. A big thank you to Lily and Maisie for their support and enthusiasm, and to the pre-school for welcoming us so warmly!



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Congratulations to the following students for having their short stories selected for publication in the Young Writers' Fight and Flight Anthology. This is an incredible achievement, and we are so proud of their hard work and creativity.

Annabelle B (Y8)
Emily I (Y7)
Grace M (Y11)
Iona F (Y8)
Marley P-L (Y11)
Mia D (Y8)
Shay C (Y8)

For more details on their latest competition, Grim Tales, please check the Learning Resource Centre Google Classroom or feel free to visit Miss Moores in the LRC. Keep up the fantastic writing

GRIM TALES **STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE**

Be inspired by myths, fairy tales or legends to write your own original story for Young Writers' Grim Tales competition. Write a mini saga, a story in up to 100 words for the opportunity to be published and win amazing prizes (see below). You could write from a different point of view, add a twist or create a brand-new fairy tale. Will everyone be happily ever after? It's up to you!

For more inspiration, download extra resources from www.youngwriters.co.uk/comp/igrim

Check out the video trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wq9Wjm1A>

STORY STARTERS	WRITING PROMPTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I couldn't let them get away with it... A pair of eyes glowed in the darkness... Everyone thought she was so perfect... No one was supposed to go inside... I had to face my fears... You don't know the truth about me... "The price must be paid," it hissed... I couldn't believe it, my wish had come true... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You find a mythical creature in your garden. A character returns, looking for revenge. The hero turns out to be the villain. A superstition or warning is ignored with terrible consequences. You make friends with the monster under the bed. The villain tells their side of the story. A character is cursed when they try to do something good. An iPhone grants wishes with unexpected consequences.

IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART	PRIZES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Your teacher will give you a worksheet to plan and write your piece (either printed or a Word doc). Or a link to your school's online writing portal where you will log in and type your work. Get writing! When you're finished, make sure your name is on it, and hand it in to your teacher. 	<p>1st place writer will win an iPad Mini & a trophy! Plus 4 runners-up will win £50 & a trophy.</p> <p>Every entrant receives a bookmark and those chosen for publication will also receive a certificate of merit.</p>

When will you hear from us?
Letters for anyone chosen to be published will be sent to your teacher by the end of May. The winners will be chosen once all the books are published in the summer.

Hand in to your teacher by: _____



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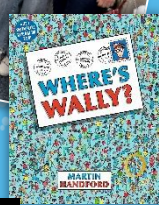
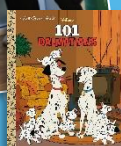
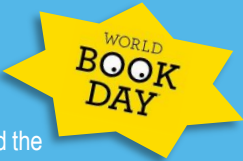
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World Book Day: A Celebration in Style!

A huge thank you to our amazing staff who embraced the spirit of World Book Day by wearing their best book-themed fancy dress! It was wonderful to see so many creative costumes around the school. A special mention goes to our fantastic Oompa Loompas, Mrs Baker and Miss Durant, who were crowned the best dressed of the day. Their outfits were a real hit!

Thank you to our staff members who got involved and made World Book Day such a memorable celebration for our students!



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A Big Thank You to Our LRC Assistants!

A huge thank you to our incredible LRC Assistants for all their hard work and dedication throughout the term, especially during our Literature Festival. Their support was invaluable, and we truly appreciate their efforts. To show our gratitude, the LRC Assistants were treated to a breakfast in the LRC, where they had the chance to compete as a team in the Tutor Kahoot. Congratulations to them for coming out on top!

Well done and thank you for everything you do to make the LRC such a special place.



Book Tasting Menu: A Deliciously Fun Reading Experience!

A handful of our students took part in a World Book Day 'Book Tasting Menu' session. The students had the chance to "sample" a variety of books, exploring different genres and discovering new favorites. The atmosphere was full of excitement as everyone shared their thoughts on the books they explored. It was a fun and unique way to dive into the world of reading, and we can't wait to host more sessions like this in the future!



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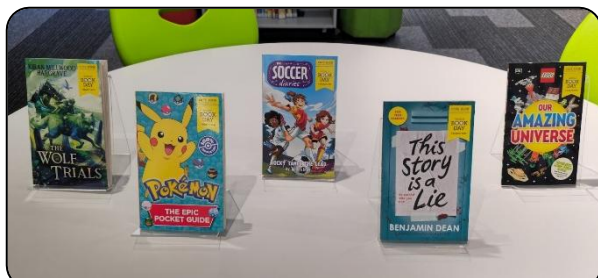


Year 7 Students Receive Free Books to Celebrate Literature Festival

As part of our Literature Festival celebrations, all Year 7 students were given the opportunity to choose a free book to take home and enjoy. This gesture reflects our ongoing passion and commitment to encouraging students to read for pleasure. By providing them with a book of their choice, we hope to inspire a lifelong love of reading and help foster a vibrant reading culture within our school.

Celebrating with

WORLD BOOK DAY





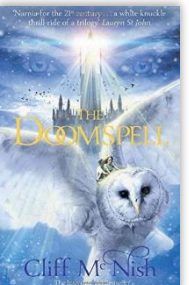
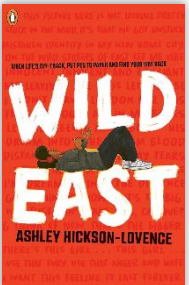
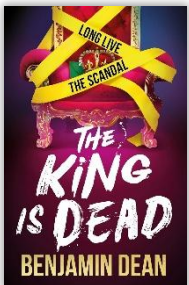
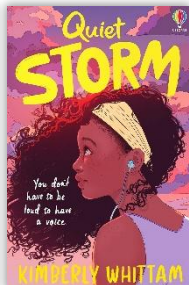
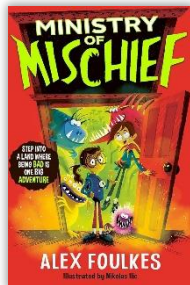
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Recommended Reads from This Year's Literature Festival

Throughout the event, authors, illustrators, and storytellers played an essential role in shaping the atmosphere, sparking our imaginations, and bringing the festival to life. Below are some of our top recommended reads, handpicked from the authors who made this year's festival so special. Whether you love mystery, fantasy, or heartfelt stories, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Accelerated Reader™

Celebrating Our Millionaire Readers (KS3)

A huge congratulations to the students who have recently achieved Millionaire Reader status! This incredible accomplishment means they've read over a million words, demonstrating a true passion for reading and dedication to expanding their knowledge. It's an amazing achievement, and we're so proud of their hard work and enthusiasm for books. Keep up the fantastic reading, and we can't wait to see even more students reach this milestone over the coming months.

Thomas C (Y7)
 Imogen C (Y7)
 Emily I (Y7)
 Lucie G (Y7)
 Celine A (Y7)
 Katie W (Y8)
 Evie R (Y8)
 Anna W (Y7)
 Edith L (Y7)
 Jack W (Y9)
 Shola A (Y8)
 Immy S (Y8)
 Harriette N (Y8)
 Caitlin S (Y8)
 Ella M (Y8)

Emily L (Y7)
 Georgie P (Y9)
 Ieuan G (Y7)
 Isabelle K (Y7)
 Bethan S (Y7)
 Matthew K (Y9)
 Tania N (Y9)
 Maisie G (Y7)
 Jennifer N (Y9)
 Seren G (Y9)
 Briana H (Y9)
 Henry C (Y7)
 Mia D (Y8)
 Gus F (Y7)
 Willow P (Y8)

Toby H (Y7)
 Jessica H (Y9)
 Will D (Y9)
 Eliza R (Y7)
 Jude N (Y7)
 Scarlet C (Y9)
 Jessica H (Y9)
 Will D (Y9)
 Eliza R (Y7)
 Jude N (Y7)
 Scarlet C (Y9)



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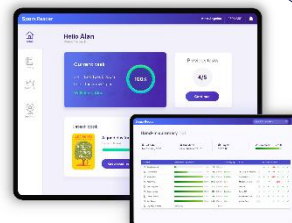


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Sparx Reader



Sparx Reader Champions of the Month(KS4)!

Congratulations to our Sparx Reader Champions so far this month! These students have shown outstanding dedication and enthusiasm in their reading, earning top spots on our Sparx leaderboard. Keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing even more students rise to the challenge in the coming weeks! Well done, everyone!

Year 10

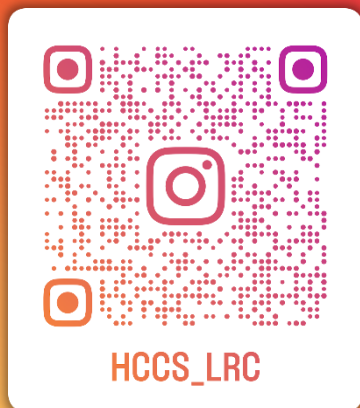
- 1st - Ashira O
- 2nd - Isla C
- 3rd - Jack B

Year 11

- 1st - Mya W
- 2nd - Sasha S
- 3rd - Tiffany G



Instagram



HCCS_LRC

HCCS LRC now has its own dedicated Instagram page. Your go-to spot for all things literacy - book recommendations, competitions and updates. Please pop along and give us a follow to keep up to date with everything happening in the LRC



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