



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



HCCS Literature Festival Edition

Date: 17th March 2023

Dear all,

I am delighted to be opening this week's newsletter, which celebrates the wonderful festival of literature that the school embraced two weeks ago. Literature underpins learning at every level and it was fabulous to see the range of activities that help to nurture and develop our continued love of literature as a school. I would like to extend special thanks this week to Kate Martin, our literacy lead, and also a published author, for the organisation and planning that ensured the HCCS Literature Festival was such a success. During the week our students were privileged to experience two author visits and a continuous group read, which spanned the day's lessons. There were also a number of opportunities for students and staff to express themselves and their love of books, through World Book Day costumes, and displaying their favourite books.



HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS LITERATURE FESTIVAL
 MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 3rd MARCH 2023
 LOTS GOING ON! ASK YOUR TUTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

AUTHOR VISITS

ROSS WICKAY
AUTHOR OF WILL AND THE WHISP

MATT CLIBFIELD
AUTHOR OF FOOTBALL HEROES

ALSO FEATURING:
 TREASURE HUNTS, TEACHER & 6TH FORM FANCY DRESS, TUTOR QUIZZES, ESCAPE ROOM, BIG BOOK BLOCKET, WORLD BOOK DAY, CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
 A 10 LIVES MOKKO!

This is also a great opportunity to ask for your continued support in encouraging your children to read at home. The link between reading, academic achievement and emotional health is a strong one, and as a school we want to use this to help develop our young people through a shared love of reading.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Matt Lowe
Deputy Headteacher



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HCCS Literature Festival Edition

Welcome to Our HCCS Literature Festival Edition of the Newsletter

Our aim at HCCS is to make all students into readers, no matter where they begin. Staff encourage literacy, not only with books, but with a wide programme of clubs and events, of which author visits play an important role. Events such as the Literature Festival and visits such as Matt and Ross' offer the students a chance to engage with reading and writing outside of a classroom environment with the opportunity to be inspired by a professional writer, someone who can act as a role model, encouraging students to stretch themselves out of their comfort zone.

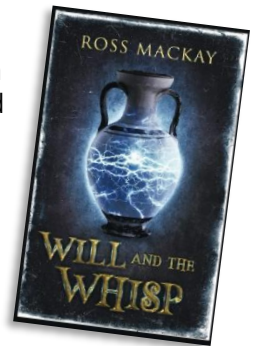


Ross Mackay



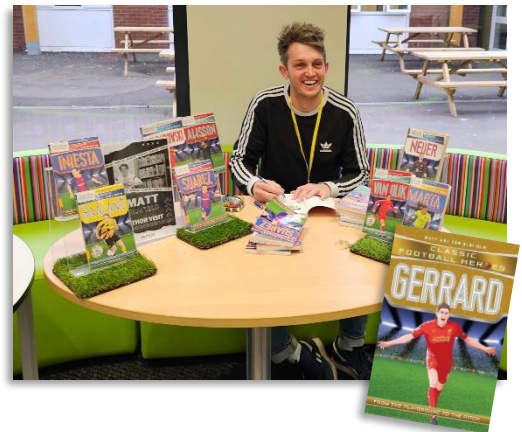
The first day of our Literature Festival began with a visit from award winning Ross Mackay, author of the fantastic 'Will and the Whisp'.

Ross held an assembly for our Year 7 students, inspiring students with not only his career as a writer but an award winning puppeteer too! He then led a series of workshops throughout the day with an important focus and message around mental health.



Matt Oldfield

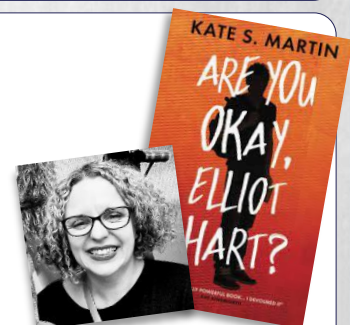
We were delighted to welcome Matt Oldfield, co-author of the exceptionally popular Ultimate Football Heroes series, to school on Friday 3rd March 2023. Matt held an assembly for all our Year 8 and Year 9 students, inspiring them with his career as a writer, the importance of reading and resilience. He then led a series of workshops with students across Years 7, 8 and 9. The workshops and assemblies were thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff alike, students explored 'bouncing back' in their writing workshop, further encouraging resilience in the face of setbacks.



Resident Workshops

Our very own Mrs Martin delivered a workshop to Year 10 about her Young Adult novel Are you Okay, Elliot Hart? It allowed the pupils to create fictional characters of their own.

Miss Ross (pen name H. A. Robinson), is one of our teaching assistants and a successful novelist of Young Adult books. She will be discussing her work later in the term.



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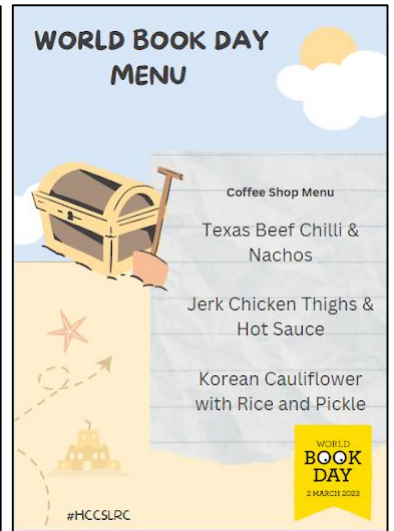
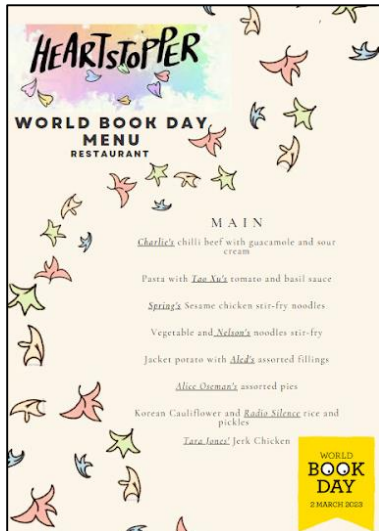
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HCCS Literature Festival Edition



World Book Day Themed Menus

Our Restaurant and Sixth Form Coffee Shop joined in the action during World Book Day with their themed menus for the day. It was great to see the whole school community come together to celebrate the wonderful world of reading.

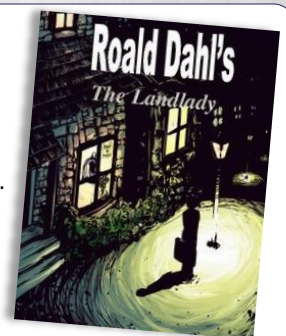


Sixth Form/Staff Fancy Dress



Story in a Day - The LandLady by Roald Dahl

Throughout World Book Day students were read a section of one of Dahl's most famous short stories. In the story, Billy Weaver, a young 17 year old boy, sees no danger at all and is completely taken in by the landlady's kindness and her appearance. The overall theme of 'The Landlady' was to show students that you can't judge a book by its cover. Whilst we walked past classrooms it was great to hear students predict what they thought would happen next in the story.



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Teachers' Favourite Books

Students were challenged to find out as many of their teachers' favourite books as possible throughout the week. Students were really interested to find out what staff within the school community had been reading.

Struggling to find your next read? here are a few recommendations from our staff:



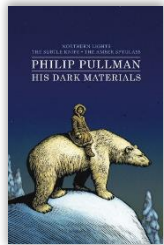
Mr Wheeler



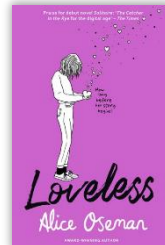
Miss Finigan



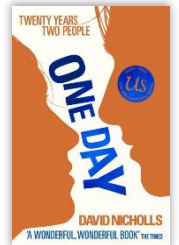
Mr Redford



Miss Robinson



Ms Ross



Mr Lowe

Personalised Author Videos

Students were treated to a variety of personalised videos throughout the week from a number of authors. Thank you to all of the wonderful authors who were involved!



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At HCCS, we believe that it is important to develop strong links between the school and local communities. Through visits, assemblies, concerts and special events, students have a number of opportunities to get involved within the local community throughout the year. Working with parents, local residents, businesses and public services, it encourages our students to become active citizens in the local community.

Bridge the Gap Coffee Morning

On World Book Day a number of our students welcomed Bridge the Gap members into our LRC and had a wonderful morning sharing stories and discussing their favourite books. Bridge the Gap is a local project aimed at building friendships across the generations, within the community. We look forward to welcoming you all again soon.





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Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School

Miss Moores had the delight of meeting the children at Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School on Wednesday 1st March for a story time session. The children enjoyed and listened intently to 'Owl Babies' and 'Spot Goes on Holiday'.

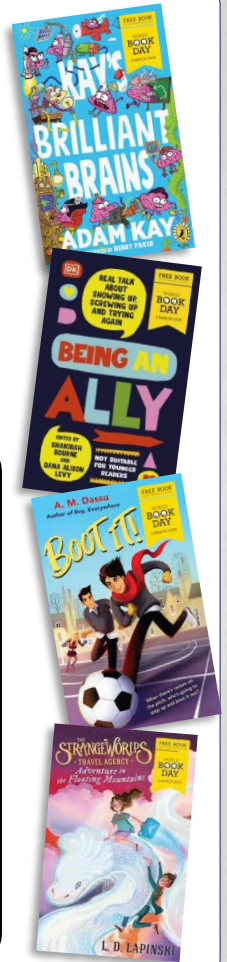


World Book Day Books

Our Year 7 students were able to choose a free World Book Day book from our Learning Resource Centre, encouraging them to further explore the pleasure of reading.

This year the World Book Token changed from paper to digital tokens for secondary schools. The digital book token was emailed to parents on Friday 17th February. Students are able to swap the digital token for a free World Book Day £1 book, or get £1 off a full price book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more by scanning the barcode using a mobile phone/tablet at the checkout.

Tokens need to be used by Sunday 26th March.



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Remembering Nell Foundation



Remembering Nell Creative Writing Competition

This week our Year 9s were invited to enter a creative writing competition in honour of Nell Jones, one of our pupils who sadly lost her life in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

We can't wait to see what they come up with.



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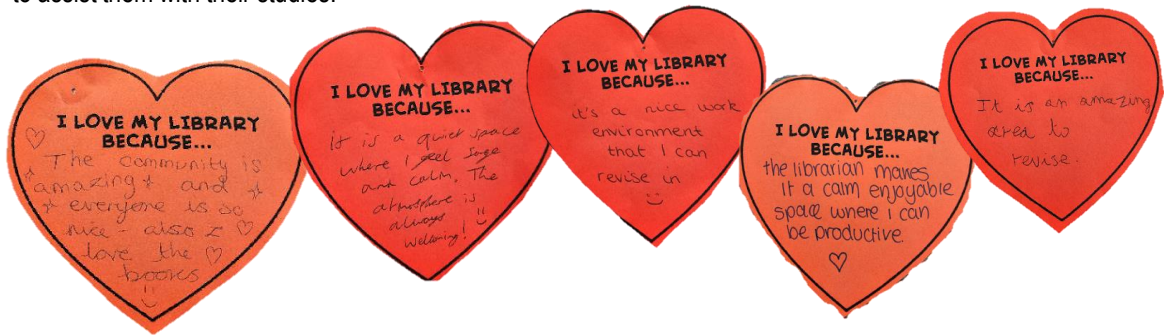
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Love Your Library Week

National Library Lovers Month is celebrated for the entire month of February, celebrated by library lovers all around the world. Students were given the opportunity to tell us what they love about our own school library. It was lovely to see that students find the LRC as a safe space within school with lots of useful technology and resources to assist them with their studies.



LRC Assistants and Reading Mentors

Our Literature Festival was also an opportunity for us to thank a number of very special students who give up their own time to help develop literacy and reading skills throughout the school community on a weekly basis.

Our LRC Assistants are a growing team of student volunteers from Year 7 through to Year 11, who help Miss Moores within the LRC throughout the week with various tasks.



Our Reading Mentors are a group of Year 12 students who have volunteered their time to read with younger students, in the aim to further improve their reading skills and develop a lifelong love of reading.

All students were treated to a thank you breakfast of bacon Sandwiches, hot chocolate, juice and pastries.

Thank you again to you all!



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Cheshire Schools' Book Awards Competition

Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2023 shortlist



5 house points for each entry
Top review wins a £10 Amazon Voucher and a pack of goodies
#HCCSLRC

Younger age category



Older age category





HCCS Literature Festival Edition

COMPETITIONS

We had a number of exciting competitions and lots of prizes up for grabs throughout the week.

Here are some of our lucky Literature Festival winners:

Tutor Kahoot Battle

Our tutor groups battled against each other for the top spot in our World Book Day Kahoot. Congratulations to those who made the podium. We hope you enjoyed your sweet treats during tutor time.



- 1st - 10MC
- 2nd - 9MC
- 3rd - 10TC

TREASURE HUNT



Treasure Hunt Winners

Throughout the week, students enjoyed hunting around the entire school site for twenty hidden book covers, all of which can be found in the school library. Our speediest contestants were Scarlett Rose C (7TC) and Charlie E (7CC), who both walked away with a mystery book from our prize basket.

Bouncing Back Workshop Stories

During their workshop with Matt Oldfield students were challenged to write a short story about resilience. The following students received a bag of goodies for their excellent stories. Well done!

- Lucie B (9CC)
- Peter I (9MH)
- Archie P (8AH)
- Henry W (8AH)



On World Book Day around 40 students joined us in the LRC for our Big Book Blooket. Students and staff battled together against the time for a space on the podium.

Congratulations to those who managed to claim their space, lots of books and sweet treats handed out, well done!



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Power of Poetry

Three HCCS pupils have been selected to have their work published as part of the Young Writers' Power of Poetry Competition.

Grace M (9CC), Iesha N (8AC) and Arina S (10CH) worked on their poems at home and entered the competition which was titled, 'The Power of Poetry' and run by the Young Writers Association.

The competition was open to secondary school pupils in the UK aged between 11 and 18.



An ode to Kirill...

Зима. Холод. Снег и смерть
 Уверен не хотел бы умереть
 На меня дул холодный ветер
 и еслиб был бы я бессмертным
 я знал бы где и рай и ад
 кстати, твоей улыбке всегда рад
 я был в аду и видел там
 людей поганых - стыд и срам
 вечно ноют о несчастье
 вопиют, орут и очень часто
 а в раю уютно тихо и тепло
 конечно, мне с тобою хорошо
 я богиню видел лишь в тебе
 и благодарен я судьбе

Winter. Cold. Snow and death.
 Surely I would not want to die.
 A cold wind blew on me
 And if only I were immortal
 I would know where is Heaven and Hell
 By the way, your smile is always happy.
 I was in Hell and saw there
 Filthy people - shame and disgrace
 Always whine about misfortune
 Yelling, yelling and very often.
 And in paradise it is cozy, quiet and warm
 Of course I'm fine with you
 I saw goddess only in you
 And I'm grateful to fate.

Poem written by Arina S (10CH) in Russian and translated into English.



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Accelerated Reader[®]

Our Key Stage 3 pupils continue to engage with the Accelerated Reader Programme. Each student has an allocated lesson in our Learning Resource Centre with the focus on AR. Their class teacher and Miss Moores, our LRC Coordinator, will help your child to choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that they can pass the quiz and experience success.

Accelerated Readers Millionaire Readers

Marley P-L (9MC) - 2,424,189

James L (7AH) - 1,738,932

Scarlet Rose C (7TC) - 1,487,177

Georgia B (9CC) - 1,390,574

Luca P (9TC) - 1,160,342

Ilesha N (8AC) - 1,047,354

Eva P (8AH) - 1,044,546

Accelerated Reader Top Quizzers

1st - Jessie C (7AC) 74 Quizzes

2nd - Noah D (7AH) 31 Quizzes

3rd - James L (7AH) 29 Quizzes



Keep up the hard work! We will look forward to seeing you all soon for a reward morning.



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WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WEEK 27th March- 2nd April 2023

Autism is a lifelong condition which affects how people communicate and interact. A wide ranging spectrum of needs which can be misunderstood. Here in school we have many students with Autism and to celebrate their many differences, we will be raising awareness during the week of 27th March.

Throughout the week we will be sharing what it means to have autism and the many challenges faced by our students. We will also be sharing the many positives of being autistic.

The theme of the week is **COLOUR** and will be holding a competition with the entries being used for a display. We look forward to receiving the entries and awarding prizes for the top three. More details about how to enter will follow in tutor time.

To celebrate the differences we would like all members of the school community to wear brightly coloured socks on Friday 31st March with a small donation that will be donated in full to the National Autistic Society Charity. We look forward to seeing the many different colourful combinations on the day.



Mrs Munro Resource Provision Student Manager

Miss Rogers Resource Provision Teacher

[Please Click here for the National Autistic Society Website](#)



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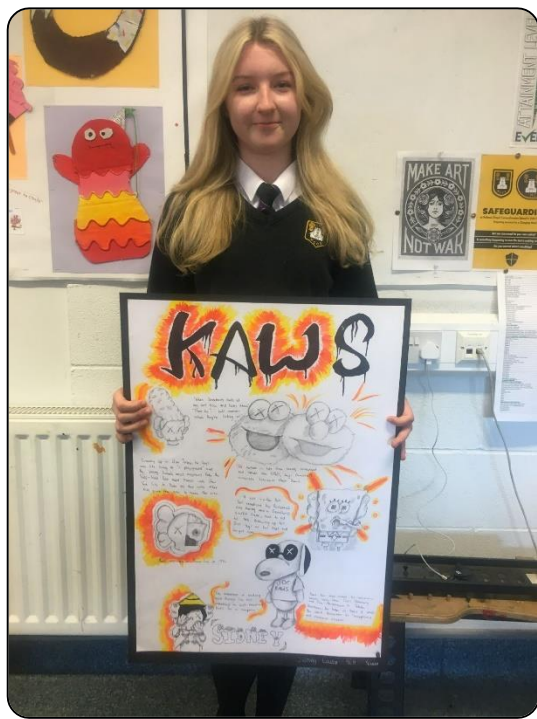
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'GCSE Ready'

'GCSE ready' Sidney in 9CH, with her amazing KAWS inspired street art title page all set for display in the Art Department!



Art Club

Great turnout for last weeks Art Club. We were exploring pointillism to create tone.



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'Careers Corner'

Job of the Week



Staff Vacancies



We have a number of teaching staff & non teaching staff vacancies at HCCS. For more information and application forms [click here](#).

- Reception & Administration Officer
- Art Technician
- Teacher of Mathematics
- Exams & Data Officer
- School Cleaners
- Teaching Assistants



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HCCS Literature Festival Edition

Education Season Tickets.

Help spread the word - parents can save time and money.



Let Northern help you, to help your parents save money whilst ensuring your pupils get to school on time and in an environmentally friendly way.

Our education season tickets save up to **75%*** on the cost of rail travel.

We also are the second largest train operator in the UK, with 2,500 services a day to more than 500 stations across the North of England.

All the information you need to know is contained below. Please feel free to share with your parents via your website and end of term newsletters.

SAVE THE DATE! Summer Term Tickets Live 27th March

Summer term tickets will be on sale from 27th March – 28th April.

Staff First Aid Training

Behind the scenes at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, some of our staff recently participated in their new or refresher First Aid at Work 3 day Training Course. The course, run by Helen Cliff, our 1st aid instructor, incorporates CPR, De-Fib, choking, burns, head injuries, fractures plus many illnesses such as diabetes, asthma and heart attacks. In school there are over 50 members of staff, from all departments, that willingly give up their time to become First Aiders and look after students who are injured or become ill during the school day. A huge thanks to everyone who has volunteered, attended and achieved their Qualification.

On this course: Nikki Thomas, PE teacher; Phil Roberts, Humanities Teacher; Jenny Bayley, Reception; Tara Jade Bowles, Welfare Manager; Jason Jones, Assistant Head; Chrissy Farr, Site team; Megan Fitzpatrick, IT Teacher.



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HCCS Netball Tournament Report

On Tuesday 14th March HCCS Netball Teams in Years 7 and 8 participated in their first netball Tournaments for school. The girls were amazing and had so much fun finishing the season off on a high.



Both teams played exceptionally well especially in the icy cold, wet conditions. They had some fantastic games against Brine Leas, Alsager and Sandbach B, coming away with the win or gaining points for a draw.

Both year groups had some tough opposition in Congleton and Sandbach A teams, however this did not dampen our girls spirits. I am very proud of both the teams today, they were a credit to themselves and Holmes Chapel. Congratulations to all. We took some fun photos to finish what was an enjoyable evening, finishing off the netball school year. Well done Girls, Rounders teams coming next :)



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Please [click here](#) for various workshops supported by Visyon. These are the same flyers that were emailed to all parents/carers last week.

Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F