



### In this issue:

Library Roundup  
The Last Word!  
Recommended Reads  
Accessit  
Out And About This  
Summer

### Library

#### opening times:

Monday - Thursday

8.15 - 4.30

Friday

8.15 - 3.30

#### Librarian:

Mrs Anthony

#### Assistant Librarians:

Mrs Ableman

Ms McFarlane

#### Library X:

We are pleased to  
announce that the  
library has its very own  
X account:

[@TCHSLibraryNews](https://twitter.com/TCHSLibraryNews)



Here we are at the end of another busy term, and indeed, the end of what's been a busy school year filled with lots of events and activities that we have thoroughly enjoyed.

The Autumn term seems almost like a distant memory now, but it's always the busiest time in the literary calendar. We started the year by welcoming our new Year 7 students to the library; it's always a joy to meet enthusiastic new readers!



September was also the month that we celebrated our '*freedom to read*' during 'Banned Books Week'. Students were surprised to discover that censorship is increasing, particularly in the U.S., where an astounding 10,000 books have been banned in public schools during 2023-24.

In October, we celebrated National Poetry Day by taking part in the Guinness World Record attempt for the largest (multi-venue) poetry lesson.

Some of our Year 7 students took part in a live, online poetry lesson where

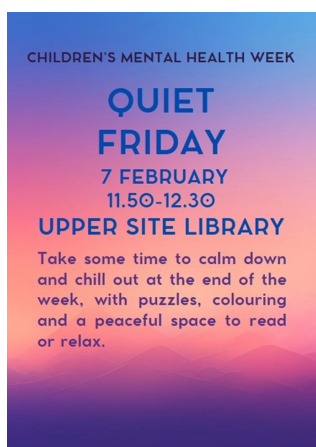


they helped poet Laura Mucha write a poem on the theme of 'What Counts'. More than 250,000 students took part, from both national and international schools, and I am pleased to say that the attempt was successful and we can now call ourselves World Record holders!



Black History Month was also celebrated in October with themed displays of both fiction and non-fiction books written by Black authors. During our ever-popular Film Club, we streamed relevant films throughout the month dealing with issues such as race, culture, politics and history. We also invited author and activist the Hon. Dr Stuart Lawrence to talk to our Year 9, 10 & 11 students.





He spoke about his life and his work with young people and how he focuses on empowering them to make a positive difference in their lives and the world around them. His message of hope and tolerance and striving to be the best that you can be was truly inspirational for our students.



During National Non-Fiction November, students took part in a library 'scavenger hunt' where they were able to employ all the skills they learnt during their library inductions. They were challenged to read books from our non-fiction collection to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills.

November also saw the launch of Mrs Ableman's KS3 Book Club. Students have enjoyed meeting up fortnightly for lots of book chat. Mrs Ableman's home-baked sweet treats have also proved to be extremely popular!



In December, we launched our Advent Reading Challenge which comprised 25 fun activities to keep students reading during the festive season. We also held our Christmas Mystery Prize Draw and raised an amazing £980, which we have been able to spend on new books and resources for the library.

In January we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day, while our focus in February was on student wellbeing in support of Children's Mental Health Week. A curated selection of books was promoted for both occasions. We also introduced 'Quiet Friday' to provide students with a little haven of peace and tranquility where they could take part in some mindful activities and de-stress during lunchtime.

We celebrated World Book Day on 6 March, with lots of reading-related activities. Staff read extracts from a selection of contemporary best-selling novels at the start of each lesson to encourage book conversations with students and in the library we held a Bake-a-Book Competition. Students were asked to bake cakes or cookies and decorate them to represent a book cover, a book character or to just promote reading in general.

Staff and our team of student librarians selected our winner by voting for their favourite from our finalists.







Our annual Scholastic Book Fair also arrived on World Book Day and was another big success. Students had the opportunity to browse and buy books from a great selection of popular titles. The school earned a fantastic £750 commission on all the sales and we are extremely grateful for such amazing support from students and parents.

In April, we took part in the Carnegie Medal for Illustration Award, joining hundreds of schools across the country by forming our own Award Shadowing Group. In Year 7 library lessons, we read the shortlist of books, watched online author interviews, discussed artistic styles and techniques, took part in illustration activities and judged the books according to specific criteria! Finally, we voted for our favourites and then watched the announcement of the winner at the online Awards Ceremony.



April also saw our Chess Team take part in a tournament at Chingford Foundation School. We entered two teams, who found themselves up against strong players from five other schools. Thanks to their great skill and determination, as well as respect for the game and their opponents, our team made it through to the Final and we were declared the winners following a final tense round of Freestyle chess!

May saw the start of exams' season – a significant time in a student's life that can often lead to feelings of stress and anxiety. To help recognise and deal with some of these feelings, we put together a 'Reading for Wellbeing' collection of books with top tips for navigating this difficult time.



On 12 June, we celebrated Empathy Day by taking part in a virtual event organised by the Empathy Lab and the National Literacy

Trust. Thirty of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to watch the event in the Library with poet and former Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho and teen favourite, neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll. Following the event, students were treated to a selection of cakes, while settling down to watch the first episode of the televised series of Elle McNicoll's book 'A Kind of Spark'. It was a fun way to bring the Empathy Day Festival to a close!

Finally, as we approach the end of term, it is important that students remain engaged with reading over the long summer break. Therefore, please encourage them to take part in our Summer Reading Challenge.



# The Last Word!

## Some insights and recommendations from our student librarians and DofE volunteers

### Volunteering in the Library

For our Duke of Edinburgh award, we volunteered at lunchtimes in the Upper Site library. We were tasked with many jobs, such as shelving and issuing books. On the first session, we were taught how to use the library management system and quickly got the hang of it. We helped issue books to other students and through this, we learnt where all the genres of books went. We were frequently tasked with tidying the non-fiction area and had to learn the Dewey decimal system. It was quite confusing at first.

We also helped to create decorations for different displays such as bunting for World Book Day; we tasted cakes for the Bake-a-Book competition and voted for our favourite; and on the last Friday of every half term, Feel-Good Friday happened. Students could come and create a piece of art or do one of the activities and have some cake! Gracie showcased her amazing 'guarding' skills by making sure that cakes and snacks were shared evenly among the students taking part.

In summary, volunteering at the library has been quite fun. If you're looking for a way to take part in the school community, we highly recommend you volunteer at the school library, whether it's for fun or for DofE. You discover different skills and learn many ways to incorporate reading into students' lives. Our librarians are lovely people and were very welcoming to us. Thank you for this opportunity!

By Gracie and Nikitha (Year 9)

### Book Reviews

#### *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson*

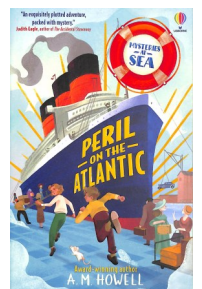
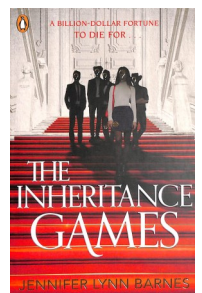
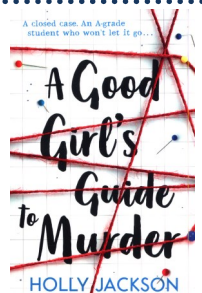
I have really enjoyed this series as it has amazing twists and turns. I loved seeing how the main character (Pip) developed throughout the books. My favourite thing about these books is that we get to follow along and have no clue who the murderer is before it is revealed at the end. This gives us the ability to make up our own theories. Personally, my favourite book was the third 'As Good As Dead' because Pip really comes out of her shell and is a completely different person from the first book. I would recommend this murder mystery series.—Kyla

#### *The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes*

This book was a thrilling mess of family secrets and betrayal. It is a mystery with a romantic sub-plot that leaves you yearning for more in the next books, as it is the first in the trilogy. The plot twists were unpredictable and left me speechless. I thought this book was amazing and I would highly recommend to anyone, especially lovers of the mystery genre.—Simona

#### *Mysteries at Sea: Peril on the Atlantic by A.M. Howell*

Hop aboard the Queen Mary and set sail on a journey full of twists and turns. This book is drowning in adventure and suspense, and a mystery to solve. As two friends set off on a boat race to beat a record, they are also racing to uncover the attacker of one of the boat's staff. Little do they know, however, that along the way more than just secrets about the attack will be uncovered. Will their relationship be the same after everything has been revealed? This book is packed full of excitement and suspense! - Alice





## RECOMMENDED READS

A new selection of books for our  
KS3 developing readers to enjoy.

### Year 7

The Creatures of Killburn Mine  
by Dan Smith

### Year 7

Lionesses: Defending the Crown  
by Emily Stead

### Year 7

Worst. Superhero. Ever  
by Charlie Higson

### Year 8

The Boy at the Window  
by Lucy Strange

### Year 8

Drowning in My Bedroom  
by Steve Cole

### Year 8

The Foundation  
by Melinda Salisbury

### Year 9

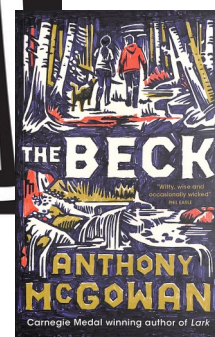
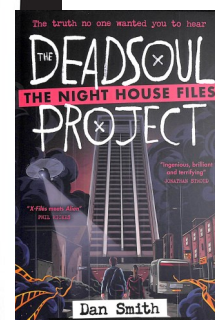
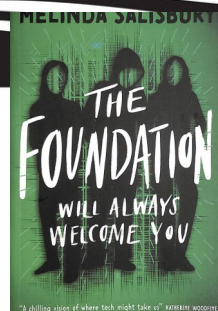
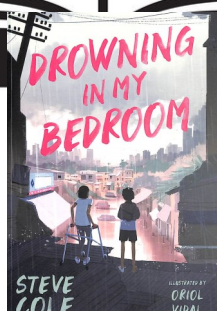
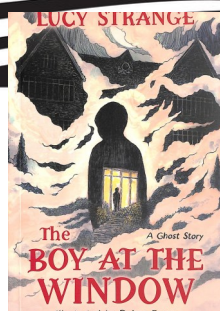
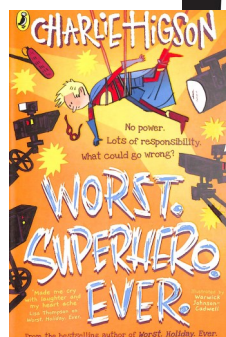
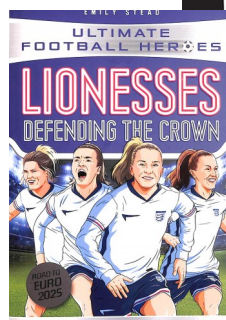
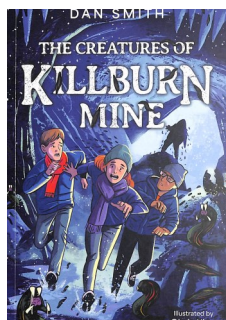
My Perfect Cousin  
by Karen McCombie

### Year 9

The Deadsoul Project  
by Dan Smith

### Year 9

The Beck  
by Anthony McGowan



# Accessit

Accessit is our web-based school library management system. It is easy to use and accessible to all students. Each student has their own library account, through which they can check item availability, reserve and renew items, read and write reviews, and track their on-loan and overdue items. They can access the catalogue from any internet-enabled device. The Accessit OneSearch feature provides access to all local and curated online content with one single search.

For more information on how to use Accessit, please watch the demonstration video:

[Accessit Demo](#)

To visit the library web page, please go to the school website and under 'Login' select 'Library' or, alternatively, please click on the following link:

[Library web page](#)

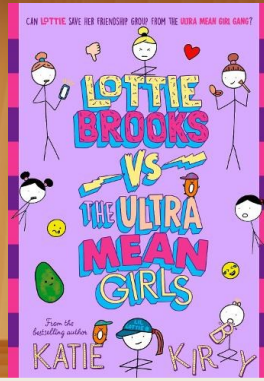


## RECOMMENDED READS

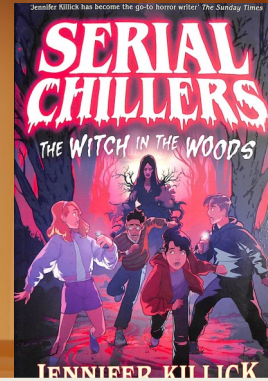
Read for pleasure this Summer:  
some exciting reads for all year groups



**Year 7**  
**Running My Own Race**  
By Abena Eyeson



**Year 7**  
**Lottie Brooks vs The Ultra Mean Girls**  
By Katie Kirby



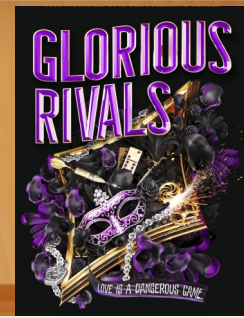
**Year 8**  
**Serial Killers: The Witch in the Woods**  
By Jennifer Killick



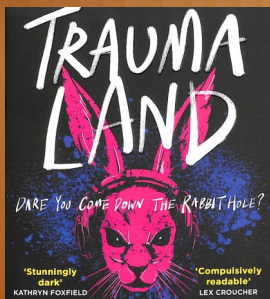
**Year 8**  
**What Happens Online**  
By Nathanael Lessore



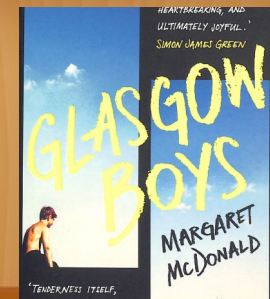
**Year 9**  
**Play**  
By Luke Palmer



**Year 9**  
**Glorious Rivals**  
By Jennifer Lynn Barnes



**Year 10**  
**Traumaland**  
By Josh Silver



**Year 10**  
**Glasgow Boys**  
By Margaret McDonald



**Year 11**  
**The Dagger and the Flame**  
By Catherine Doyle





# Out And About This Summer!

Bookish ideas to keep students entertained  
and engaged with reading

## 1) Wicked Sing-Along

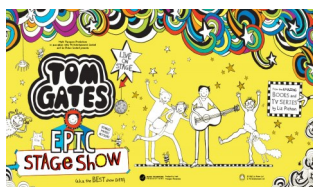
Wicked, the untold story of the witches of Oz, stars Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power, and global superstar Ariana Grande as Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart.

Redbridge Drama Centre: 13 August at 10.00am and 1.30pm Tickets: from £1

<https://visionrcl.org.uk/event/wicked-sing-along-pg-film-screening/>



## 2) Tom Gates Epic Stageshow



Based on the bestselling books by Liz Pichon, and brand new for 2025, Tom Gates EPIC Stage Show comes to the theatre bringing alive the illustrations and music that makes Tom Gates hugely popular around the world!

With catchy tunes and hilarious performances, this fantastic new stage show brings the best of the Brilliant World of Tom Gates into one live show!

Alexandra Palace: 11 & 12 August at 11am and 2pm Tickets: Adults £26.80 Under 16s £21.80

<https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/tom-gates-live-on-stage/>

## 3) Space: Could Life Exist Beyond Earth?

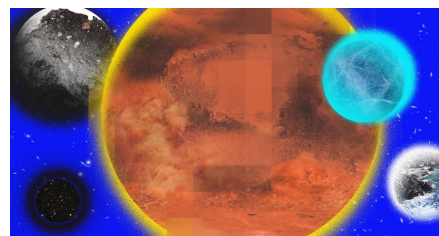
Touch a piece of Mars, wrap your hands around a fragment of the Moon and snap a selfie with the Allende meteorite, which – at 4.567 billion years old – is even older than Earth!

Today, there's more evidence than ever before to suggest that life could exist beyond Earth. NHM's newest exhibition explores the big question – are we alone in the universe?

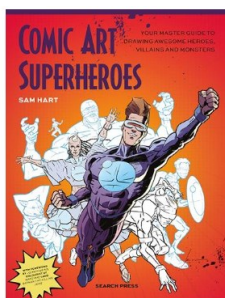
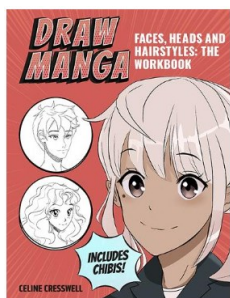
Travel from Earth's extreme environments out into space, stopping off at asteroids, Mars, the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn and planets beyond our solar system in the search for life.

The Natural History Museum: Daily from 10am-6pm Tickets: Adults from £14 Children from £7

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/space>



## 4) Manga Mad?...



Don't miss this opportunity to meet manga artist Celine Cresswell and comic book artist Sam Hart as they host live drawing workshops.

Waterstones Piccadilly: 30 July at 6pm and 7.15pm Tickets: £5

<https://www.waterstones.com/events/draw-with-celine-cresswell-and-sam-hart-at-waterstones-piccadilly/london-piccadilly>

