My Top Reads! For this issue of the Book Council newsletter I have chosen these three books as top three to read!

**The Harry Potter Book series**

The Harry Potter series is definitely one of the most remarkable teenage/adult book series I have ever read. It will stick with you for the rest of your childhood and will most certainly make you believe in witchcraft and wizardry. The author of this book is JK Rowling and is world renowned for her writing skills.

**His Dark Materials**

His Dark Materials is a three book series written by Philip Pullman and is based on another world. Lyra, a teenage girl who is not allowed to leave Jordan College finally gets the chance to explore the world. Just from reading the blurb you will want to be in the story yourself.

**Alex Rider**

Alex Rider, another teenager, is recruited to the British secret service (MI6) and sent on multiple missions while finding out his past. If you are a lover of action books or even movies this book is perfect for you.

-Ruby Lawford—Y8

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First half term was Open Evening for year sixes. The library was decorated in the theme of David Walliams. There were quizzes and word searches for children to complete and there was also the film Grandpa’s Great Escape playing. Students actually built Grandpa’s famous spitfire on the photo!

Leah Morton Y11
The Boy at the back of the Class

It is so important as a society that we read, whether it is a book, magazine, article or even a recipe. Dr Seuss once said “The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places that you’ll go!”

With that in mind and to help create interest and excitement running up to joining CHS in 2019, we decided to create a ‘Summer reading Challenge’ for our new starters to be carried out during the summer holidays. We researched many age appropriate books that we felt would interest both boys and girls covering topics such as friendship, kindness, bullying, change, multi-cultures and issues that young people face within our society on a daily basis. We chose ‘The Boy at the back of the Class’ by Onjali Q Rauf a heart-warming story centred around a group of school friends and a new boy joining their school from Syria. I read the book and found it absolutely brilliant, moving, educational and very of the moment. Over 300 copies of the book were purchased one for each of our new students along with a lesson plan and an accompanying workbook. Each student was given a pack on Borough Transfer Day and during the English lesson, given instructions on how to complete the workbook after reading the novel over the summer holidays. We tweeted this challenge so that our parents could become involved, and also tweeted the author of the book and we have been delighted by the supportive response from parents commenting with quotes like ‘our reluctant reader has finished the book already’ and ‘my child has yet to put the book down!’ Onjali the author herself also retweeted with wonderful comments and words of support!

I highly recommend reading this book no matter what your age! It will lift your spirits and have you laugh and maybe cry! If you would like to loan a copy, come along to the school library for your copy today!

Happy Reading! And remember ‘Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it!’ Roald Dahl.

-Mrs Cullen
Christmas Movie Night!!

By popular demand, on Monday 16th December the Learning Zone and the English Department will be carrying out a Christmas viewing of the movie ‘Home Alone’. The movie will be aired straight after school beginning at 2.45pm and will finish at 5.00pm. This will take place within the school in the Learning Zone! There will be nibbles, its going to be great! Lets get Christmassy!!!

New Learning Zone Books

Do you need a book for school, one that you really want to enjoy? Come to the learning Zone and escape reality through the power of a great book!

Recently, the school library has received some new and exciting books to put on our bookshelves, all you need to do is choose one that grabs your attention and read it! These books come in an array of genres, themes and sizes that hook you in so you never want to leave without reading the next paragraph. Take a look at our brilliant new books display on the wall to discover what stories we have in store and have an idea (from the page cover pictures, text, etc) what the book might be about. Some of these new books are: Ella on the Outside’, ‘Wonder’, ‘A Monsters Calls’, ‘The Boy Who Flew’ and ‘Newbury and Hobbs-The Affinity Bridge and Osiris Ritual’.

Pick which one you like and the library helpers will allow you to borrow a new book and renew it whenever you like, so you can continue to delve deep into your story. Laugh with the comedies or cry with the emotional, or smile with the happy endings, whichever book you choose is bound to be a brilliant one. So, come to the learning Zone and check these new books before they’re gone, you will be impressed.

By Gabriella Y8

Reading is an act of civilization; it’s one of the greatest acts of civilization because it takes the free raw material of the mind and builds castles of possibilities. - Ben Okri
3 good books to read if you like music!!

1. The Complete Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson by Ralph Waldo Emerson - This is the autobiography of Ralph Waldo Emerson

2. The History Of Music by Cecil Gray
   This is the history of music of all types.

3. A Dream About Lightning Bugs by Ben Folds
   In A Dream About Lightning Bugs Folds looks back at his life so far in a charming, funny and wise chronicle of his artistic coming of age, infused with the wry observations of a natural storyteller. He opens up about finding his voice as a musician, becoming a rock anti-hero, and hauling a baby grand piano on and off stage for every performance. From growing up in working class North Carolina childhood amid the race and class tensions that shaped his early song writing to painful life lessons he learned the hard way, he also ruminates on music in the digital age, the absurdity of life on the road, and the challenges of sustaining a multi-decade, multi-faceted career in the music business.

-Alistair Lucas Y8

Simply Read

With the Library's growing popularity, we now have a lunchtime rota that states what years can come in on that day. However, on Thursday's anyone can come in regardless of year group to relax and enjoy reading a good novel. We have called this day 'Simply Read' which means quiet reading only in a calm and stress-free environment, no computers, no gadgets 'Simply Read'. We hope you enjoy our 'Simply Read' sessions.

-By Courtney Latif-Stokes Y8

Lunchtime Rota

The Learning Zone has become so popular lately during break time and lunch that to make sure everyone benefits from using the facilities we have put a rota in place. Each year group had been allocated a day which will be displayed on the large noticeboard outside the Learning Zone. This rota will change however during exam times.

- Mondays Y7 and Y10
- Tuesdays Y8 and Y9
- Wednesdays Y7 and Y11
- Thursday – Simply Read - quiet reading only (all years welcome)
- Friday – Y8 and Y9
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health and wellbeing is a problem that is not often addressed. Mrs Macfarlane led an assembly on this subject on the 9th October. Miss spoke about how to and ways of helping to cope with mental health issues and what to do if a friend or family member is going through a tough time. There is a club that has been set up in school and is situated in L11 that discusses mental health and wellbeing issues and ways to help recognise and help prevent it within our school.

At Crompton House, there is always someone at the Hub to chat to if you or someone you know is having a hard time. Anything you tell the trusted adult will be confidential and they won’t stop until they know that you are safe and happy.

The Library

The library has a great section of books that specialise in Mental Health and Wellbeing called ‘Shelf Help’. The books cover a wide range of topics ranging from anxiety, body image and OCD to living with Asperger’s, ADHD and peer pressure. There is also a great selection of fictional stories based around some these types of topics such as the award winning ‘I’ll Give You the Sun’ by Jandy Nelson. Reading in general is proven to help with mental health so even if you don’t read one of the self-help books reading in general can be calming and helpful and Simply Read Thursdays in the Library offers a calm and quiet environment to relax and read.

By Isabella Burgess Y7