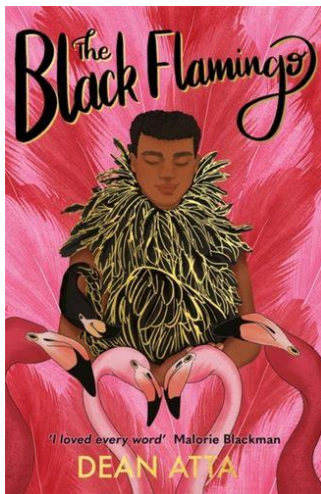


## CHS Library Newsletter - Issue 47

*“Loving God, Caring For Each Other and Achieving Excellence”*

Welcome to issue 47 of the CHS Library Newsletter. Lots to share with you in this edition! We have been a busy with various projects and activities. February is home to LGBTQ+ History Month and Children’s Mental Health Month and so this issue contains lots of great reading recommendations around these important awareness months. Also included are activities, competitions and information on World Book Day which is fast approaching next week. I do hope that you enjoy this issue.

### Featured Book Reviews

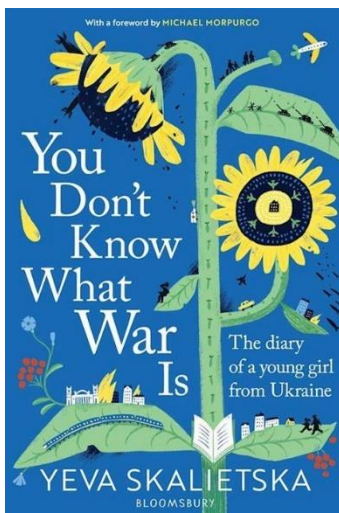


#### Black Flamingo – Dean Atta

Fiction/LGBTQ+/Poetry/Diversity/Coming of Age

Suitable for age 12+

A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, The Black Flamingo. A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.



#### You Don't Know What War Is – Yeva Skalietska

Non-Fiction/War/Immigration/Refugees/Empathy – Age 11+

This is the gripping and moving diary of young Ukrainian refugee Yeva Skalietska. It follows twelve days in Ukraine that changed 12-year-old Yeva's life forever. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling. Russia had invaded Ukraine, and her beloved Kharkiv home was no longer the safe haven it should have been. It was while she was forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement that Yeva decided to write down her story. And it is a story the world needs to hear.

I read this over half term in a day. It is an extraordinary, exhilarating, and often heart breaking read told in the words of a young girl who loves her country. An absolute must read for all ages.

Find it in the school library or on Sora [here](#)

## Children's Mental Health Week

Lots of activities took place throughout Children's Mental Health week 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February to raise awareness. We continued to spread messages of kindness and positivity through our #WriteaSmile postcard project combining literacy with looking after our wellbeing. We wrote to friends, family and teachers and this time also to students at fellow Oldham secondary school Newman College. Newman have joined our #WriteaSmile journey and created their own version of our postcard writing wonderful messages back to CHS students namely year 7 and 11 who may be struggling with joining secondary school or exam pressure. CHS students Courtney Y11 and Indiya Y7, swapped cards with Newman students and mental health ambassadors Justina and Luke whom it was a privilege to meet. We also visited Oldham Hospital with CHS students Kaya Y9 and Olivia Y10 to present them with a £200 donation raised by our student book council via our Christmas hamper raffle. This will enable them to purchase new books for the children's ward and we thank parents, and everyone for buying tickets! We are very proud of our students and #WriteaSmile, for more information on the project you can view our video [here](#)

You can read the latest news article from the Oldham Times [here](#)



## Drop Everything and Read

At CHS, we recognize the importance of looking after our wellbeing. Research shows that reading for 10 minutes every day has a substantial impact on our mental health and wellbeing, it helps us to relax and takes us on magical journeys. Whole school took part in 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) activity where students stop what they are doing and read material of their choice for a 10-minute period. DEAR activities take place each term to acknowledge the importance of reading for pleasure.

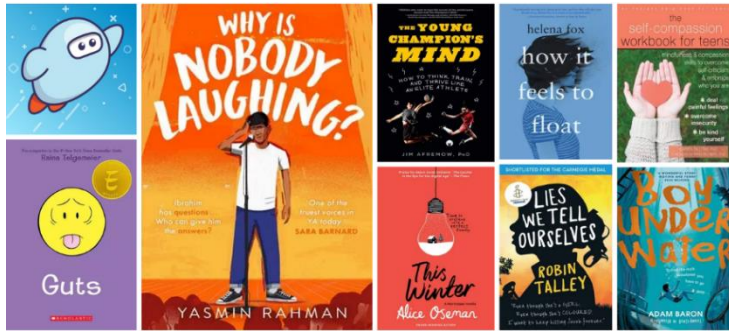




## Books to read to support mental health and wellbeing and LGBTQ+ month

There were lots of awareness events in February. An excellent selection of books around mental health and wellbeing and LGBTQ+ topics can be found on Sora and in our school library. I have included a few examples below. You can find more by linking to Sora [here](#) if you are unsure how to log onto Sora instructions can be found [here](#)

### LGBTQ+ Reads



### Mental Health and Wellbeing Reads



## World Book Day 2023

This year World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 2nd March** and is celebrating its 26<sup>th</sup> year. Reading for pleasure is super important at CHS and to mark this wonderful occasion, staff and students are taking part in lots of exciting activities throughout the week. The information has been sent to parents/carers but in brief details as follows:

- Book Swap – Bring a preloved fiction/ non-fiction book suitable for secondary school, swap for another totally free.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March is whole school dress up - Come to school if you wish, dressed as a recognizable book character. Please be aware we are not expecting you to spend lots of money on an outfit, home-made or one adapted from clothes you have at home can be just as effective. **This is not a non-uniform day and usual school uniform rules apply if not dressed up as a book character.**
- Drop Everything and Read on Thursday – Please ensure your child brings reading material to school
- £1 have been emailed to parents and carers, printed copied are also available from the library.
- Murder Mystery in the library
- You can take a 'Book Selfie' reading a book in your favourite place and share with me for our social's pages with your permission
- Guess the teacher, story trails and much more

Photos to follow in the next issue!

More information on WBD [here](#)



## Oldham Literacy Festival

In collaboration with Christina Gabbittas at Children's Literature Festival Charity, Oldham Council are excited to announce their first ever **Oldham Children's Literature Festival** which will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. This sound extremely exciting! The website with event details hasn't been updated yet but you can monitor it [here](#)

## Children's Literature FESTIVALS

## National Literacy Trust Writing Competition

The NLT have teamed up with [Wicked the Musical](#) to launch a brand-new competition encouraging school students to write about a positive change they want to see. Open to all UK schools, [Wicked Writers: Be the Change](#) asks 9 to 14-year-olds to write persuasively about an issue they feel passionately about, perhaps how they could help vulnerable people in their communities or how their schools can ensure that everyone feels included. Prizes below and more information on how you can enter [here](#)

- Tickets and funding to take your class to see Wicked at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, London
- A writing workshop with Sharna Jackson
- Books for our students



## Great websites and Information

- World Book Day Website [here](#)
- National Literacy Trust have some great information, activities and a competition for younger readers [here](#)
- The Reading Agency developed the 'Reading Well' initiative which is a selection of books chosen by health officials helping young people to manage health and wellbeing including bullying. You can find out more about the titles [here](#), but we do have some of these titles in the school library.
- Sora our online E and Audio Book free library over 3000 e and audio books to choose from. More information about Sora [here](#)



## [Share Your Literacy Activities with Me!](#)

Share your book reviews, activities, artistic creations, or any other literacy related ideas, I would love to see them. You can contact/tweet me and email reviews etc. on the details below. Happy reading.

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Twitter: @CLearningzone #CHSFamilyReads #WriteaSmile

