

MARCH 2026 EDITION

HENDON SCHOOL

# LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



## World Book Day 2026

Between March 2nd – 6th, our Library organised a wide range of **World Book Day activities all week long:**

- Monday: **Five Nights at Freddy's Book Club.**
- Tuesday: **Manga & Anime Themed Jenga Tournament.**
- Wednesday: **Arts & Crafts station.**
- Thursday: **World Book Day!**
  - **World Book Day Library Market** – cupcake decorating, bookmark crafting competition, book displays, etc.
  - **YA book club** – with Year 10–13 students.
  - **World Book Day "Footy & Booky Quiz"** for Year 7 students.
- Friday: **"Werewolves Of Miller's Hollow" Card Game Tournament.**

We had a **fantastic turnout** and excitement from students all week long, with **LOTS of prizes** up for grabs. A massive shout-out to our fantastic **Library Ambassadors volunteers** for helping out with all the events! See pictures on the following page.

# World Book Day: Pictures



## Author Visit – Dan Freedman

### ⚽ *Turning a passion for sports into a writing career!*

On March 25th, we were delighted to welcome **New York Times best-selling author Dan Freedman**.

Dan inspired **250 students** between Years 7 and 10 with stories on how he turned his **passion for football** into a **writing career**. He showed how sport and books allow us to make bonds, and how to weave real-life stories into fiction.

There are so many incredible **career opportunities** that are available within football, even if you don't make it as one of the twenty two players on the pitch. He did a fantastic job explaining why **nurturing reading and writing skills** is beneficial for all careers, and finished the session with a **book signing**.

This was a really fantastic opportunity for our students – a **massive thank you to Dan for coming!**



***“It was an absolute privilege to visit Hendon School to help celebrate the joys of reading and writing with the students. It was such a positive experience. I thought the session went really well and it was very impactful to see how many students wanted to ask a question!” – Dan Freedman***

# Year 9 Young City Poets: Live Performance at Saint Paul's Cathedral

## *The end of a fantastic journey.*

The Young City Poets program reached its conclusion with our selected **Year 9 students performing their original poetry in front of a live audience at St Paul's Cathedral** on March 19th.

This programme was organised in collaboration with our Library team, the English department and the National Literacy Trust.

The closing event at Saint Paul's Cathedral was **hosted by musicians and poets** Simon Mole, Gecko, Paul Cree and Zohab Zee Khan. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet artists and be celebrated for their work and confidence, and we hope they remain inspired to write, read and create.

**Congratulations everyone,** we are so proud of you!



# 2026 Carnegies Book Awards: Shortlists Launch

***A one-of-a-kind opportunity to be part of a book award!***

The Carnegie awards is the UK's most prestigious book awards for children and young people, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through **two shortlists: writing and illustration**, uniquely judged by librarians. A key feature is the **"Shadows' choice"** where young people "shadow" the judging process. This means they prepare a live presentation at a regional Carnegies event and vote for their own winner on June 15th (*with the bonus point of meeting the shortlisted authors!*).

***Join our new Carnegie Book Clubs!***

## **Writing Sortlist Book Club – Monday Period 4, Library**

Discussions and shadowing preparations are a fantastic opportunity for students to be a part of a prestigious national book award and meet published authors.

*Limited availability, students must register their interest.*

## **Illustration Shortlist Book Club – Wednesday Period 4, Library**

Every week, we'll discuss a new shortlisted illustrated book and organise mindful arts and crafts activities relevant to each story. A great way to encourage easy reading for artistic students!

*No need to register, everyone is welcome to participate.*



# 2026 National Reading Champions Quiz – Years 8 and 9

## *Hendon School Reading Champs*

Huge congratulations to our Y8 and Y9 reading champions! On March 17th, our students were quizzed on their book knowledge in a **fun regional reading competition**, and did brilliantly on all eight rounds. They received personal certificates of achievement, as well as an upcoming mystery prize soon. Well done everyone!



# FREE & ONLINE RESOURCES

**BBC Bitesize**: free revision and learning games and resources.

**Book Trust**: here, use Bookfinder to browse through book recommendations, Writing Tips for advice from well-known authors, and Bookmark for information on disability representation in children's books.

**Carnegies Award website**: information on the 2026 shortlist, shadowing events and free downloadable reading resources.

**Dan Freedman's website**: visit the Writing Tips section for professional guidance on building your own story – both for poetry and journalism.

**JSTOR**: register for a free account and access up to 100 free academic articles per month and a wide range of open access resources – indispensable for any post-A-Level studies!

**National Literacy Trust's "Zone in"**: this page contains practical tips on boosting reading, writing, speaking and listening skills for young people.

**National Year of Reading Website**: info on local and national events, free downloadable resources and book lists recommendations.

**Oxplore**: made by the university of Oxford, this website presents debate questions and free resources that encourage critical thinking.

**Physics and Maths Tutor**: free revision courses and past papers – great to prepare for GCSE and A-Levels!

**Reading Well For Teens**: health and well-being experts put together book recommendations, digital resources and exercises to help young people manage mental health difficulties (eg: confidence, anxiety, neurodiversity, grief, body image, depression, navigating LGBTQ+ identities, etc.).

**Young Writers**: information on national writing competitions and free downloadable reading resources for all abilities.