

# Avanti West Coast celebrates World Book Day

March 8, 2024



Avanti West Coast has teamed up with North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership and local schools in Crewe to mark this year's World Book Day.

Pupils from three local schools, Brierley Primary, Edleston Primary and Springfield School visited the station to recite poems they had created to reflect the town's strong links with the railway.

They were joined by local poet Gareth Williams, whose poem 'Tracks are our veins' features on a 12-metre mural installed at Crewe station last year.

A book bearing the same name, which features Gareth's poem and the verses penned by local children has been produced and given to the pupils and railway users passing through the station.

Avanti West Coast has also donated 200 books to each school to help improve reading skills. Colleagues from the West Coast Operator have also offered to visit each school to deliver career and safety talks.

Taryn Banks, Station Manager for Avanti West Coast at Crewe said: "It was great to see so many smiling faces at the station celebrating World Book Day.

“I loved reading and hearing the poems. They really do capture the town’s close links to the railway, something we should be all so incredibly proud of, and a great way to celebrate World Book Day.”

The event was a follow on to a number of activities that took place over a 12-month period culminating in 2023 to mark Crewe station’s 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Emma McIntosh, Community Rail Partnership Officer for North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership said: “It was wonderful to welcome pupils to Crewe Station on World Book Day and see them perform their fantastic poems. We look forward to continuing to work with the schools and Gareth to create railway themed poetry which will be displayed at the station.”

In addition, Community Rail Network and the Department for Transport have funded a poetry workshop project. The three schools will each have two poetry workshops with Gareth Williams and produce train travel themed poems that will be temporarily displayed in the waiting rooms at Crewe Station on rotation.