**Mary Cody, Cromwell Community College – Reader profile**

**When did you first become a** reader?

I loved books when I was little, reading at bedtime was my favourite thing. But it wasn’t until I turned about 15 that I really started devouring books independently.

**What were some of your favourite books when growing up?**

I loved all things Roald Dahl when I was in primary. I won a set of his books in school and they were a cherished possession. I had a job in a book shop when I was 15, I would buy the Harry Potter books and try read them in one sitting. Being part of the exciting Harry Potter world was brilliant as a teen. Waiting for the next instalments and being part of a real buzz about books was something I feel very privileged to have experienced.

**What kind of a reader are you now?**

I read to relax, so most days I dip into some kind of book. I aim to complete 100 books every year; last year I completed 74. I am only on book 16 this year, so I need to pick up the pace.

**What book are you currently reading?**

Where the Crawdad Sings by Delia Owens

**Who would be in your top ten of children’s authors**?

JK Rowling, Roald Dahl, John Green, Emma Carroll, Catherine Doyle, Francis Hardinge, Patrick Ness, Neil Gainman, Philip Pullman, Michael Morpurgo.

**How do you encourage ‘reluctant’ readers to read?**

Always pick something that the teacher is excited about and feels relevant to the children.

**What would you see as best practice in a secondary school to encourage students to read widely and for enjoyment?**

Promote your own reading, create opportunities for dialogue about books, teachers need to read year appropriate books to be able to chat and recommend the right books for students.