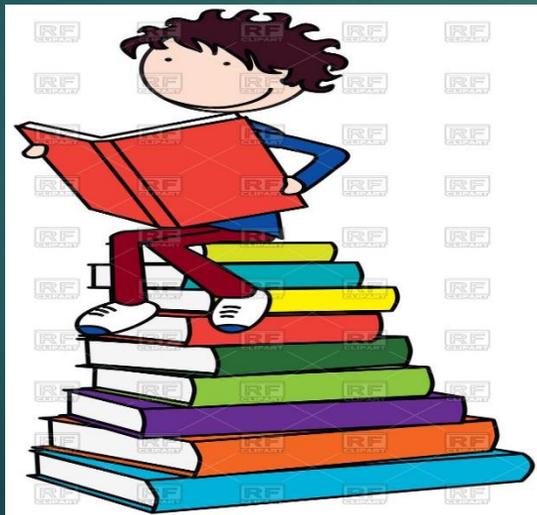
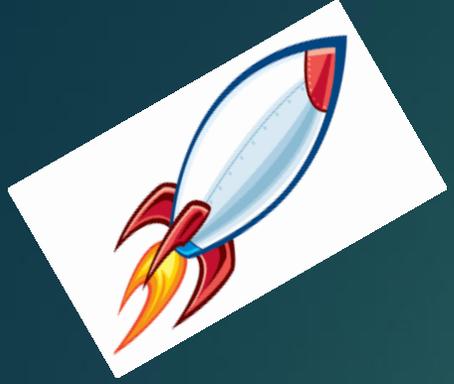


# NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE: OUR WELLREAD JOURNEY



# Why our school decided to apply for the PDST Wellread Award

- ▶ *When we first heard about the PDST Wellread Award, we thought it might be a great way to develop our library space. Over the last number of years it has been noted that the amount of students who use the library has drastically dropped.*
- ▶ *There are many reasons for this of course, technology has overtaken books, reading is often seen as 'uncool', the library is old and is in need of a revamp. The stock is not modern enough or we don't house the latest titles. All of these issues we were aware of and really wanted to change.*
- ▶ *So, by applying for the PDST Wellread Award, we felt that it would offer motivation for us to renovate our library space and hopefully this might attract more students into our library.*
- ▶ *We also hoped to invest more money into our stock, making sure to house the latest titles and also open an order list. For example, if a book is not in stock, we could order it in for the student.*
- ▶ *We also hoped to advertise the library and make sure that both staff and students were aware of the opening hours and facilities that were available.*



# We assembled a Literacy Committee



- ▶ The Literacy Committee was made up of teachers from many different departments in our school.
- ▶ We had representatives from the Maths, English and Special Education Needs Department helping us to implement literacy strategies in every area of the school, not just the English Department.

# Our plan to make our library a wonderful space for students and staff

- ▶ *The Literacy Committee decided that we would have the Library Prefects as 'The Faces' of the library and ensure that they raised awareness about the library throughout the school.*
- ▶ *We set our sights on attracting many high profile literary names in order to give the students a real sense of the creative processes an author goes through when he or she is writing a novel.*
- ▶ *All of these ideas, were merely just ideas, but we were sure that with careful planning and investment that we could certainly create a space that people wanted to spend time in and hopefully get lost in a novel.*
- ▶ *We knew we had a monumental task ahead, but together we were willing to face it head on. We looked forward to the year ahead and promoting reading for pleasure, with the hope of officially becoming a 'Wellread School'.*

In Newbridge College we believe  
that...

**“LIBRARIES SHOULD BE THE BEATING  
HEART OF THE SCHOOL, NOT  
MAUSOLEUMS FOR DUSTY BOOKS.”**

**STEPHANIE HARVEY**



# We completed a research survey to find out if our students enjoyed reading for pleasure?

Survey: Do you like reading for pleasure?

120

Responses

01:02

Average time to complete

Active

Status

...

We surveyed 120 1<sup>st</sup> year students out of 130 and attempted to find out if they were (A) Reading and (B) if they weren't, then why not?

# The results were in...

2. On a scale of 1-5, how much do you do you enjoy reading for pleasure?

[More Details](#)

- 1 (Not at all) 18
- 2-3 (sort of) 69
- 4-5 (Very much) 31

**This was positive!!!**

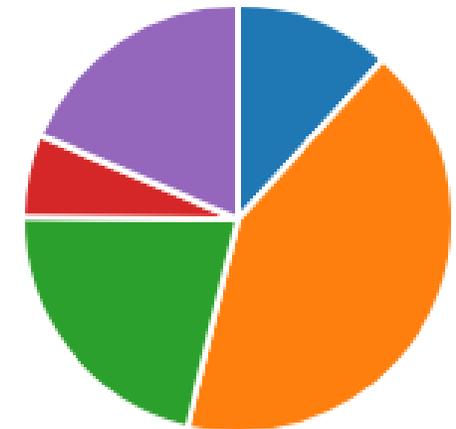


4. I would read more if... (you may choose more than one)

[More Details](#)

- Reading was promoted more i... 17
- I got recommendations of bo... 61
- My friends were reading 31
- My teachers promoted reading 9
- I had access to audio books (li... 27

**This is something we could work on**



# So we took action and advertised book recommendations through our Junior and Senior Library 'Prefect Picks' Poster Campaign

## Prefect Picks

Why not try something new?

Harry Potter Series  
by J.K Rowling



The famed story about the boy who lived, Harry Potter is a series that is a must read for everyone of every age. The books follow orphan Harry Potter, a boy who receives a letter to attend Hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry. What ensues is a seven book series about friendship, magic and the fight of good and evil. Harry Potter is a series for both boys and girls of every age.



Percy Jackson  
by Rick Riordan

Much like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson follows a boy who discovers he is more than an ordinary kid, he is in fact a demi-god; half human half-god. Percy is the son of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea, and is sent to Camp Half-Blood, a safe haven for the children of the Greek gods. A tale of adventure, friendship and mythology, Percy Jackson is a hilarious series that will keep you on the edge of your seat for the entirety of the series.



## Prefect Picks

Try recommendations from our  
prefects



Red Queen  
by Victoria Aveyard

Set in a world where people are divided by the colour of their blood, Red Queen follows the story of Mare Barrow. A girl from the poor half of society within a kingdom ruled by royals with god-like superpowers. As the story unfolds, the main character discovers she herself poses a threat to the hierarchy of these superhumans. A story full of action rebellion and shocking plot twists, Red Queen is a novel that will have you reading for hours on end.

Divergent  
by Veronica Roth



Divergent is set in a dystopian world in the city of Chicago wherein the citizens are divided into four factions, one for the peaceful, selfless, brave and intelligent. The story follows a girl named Tris, a teenager who fits into all four factions, an ultimate threat to the established system. Her fight for survival is one that will engross you from the very first page of this gripping novel.



The Mortal Instruments: City Of Bones

# Prefect Pick Poster Campaign

## Prefect Picks

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The Screaming Staircase  
by Jonathon Stroud



Set in an alternative version of modern day London, the Screaming Staircase is a story about three teenage ghost hunters who solve crimes committed by ghosts and the supernatural. A story overflowing with humor, haunted buildings and spine-chilling encounters with the supernatural, the Screaming Silence is a novel for any fans of ghost stories, murder mysteries and paranormal detective stories.

The Library  
Prefects  
handpick and  
write up blurbs  
on each book.

These posters  
are aimed at  
Junior and  
Senior students.

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Try recommendations from our  
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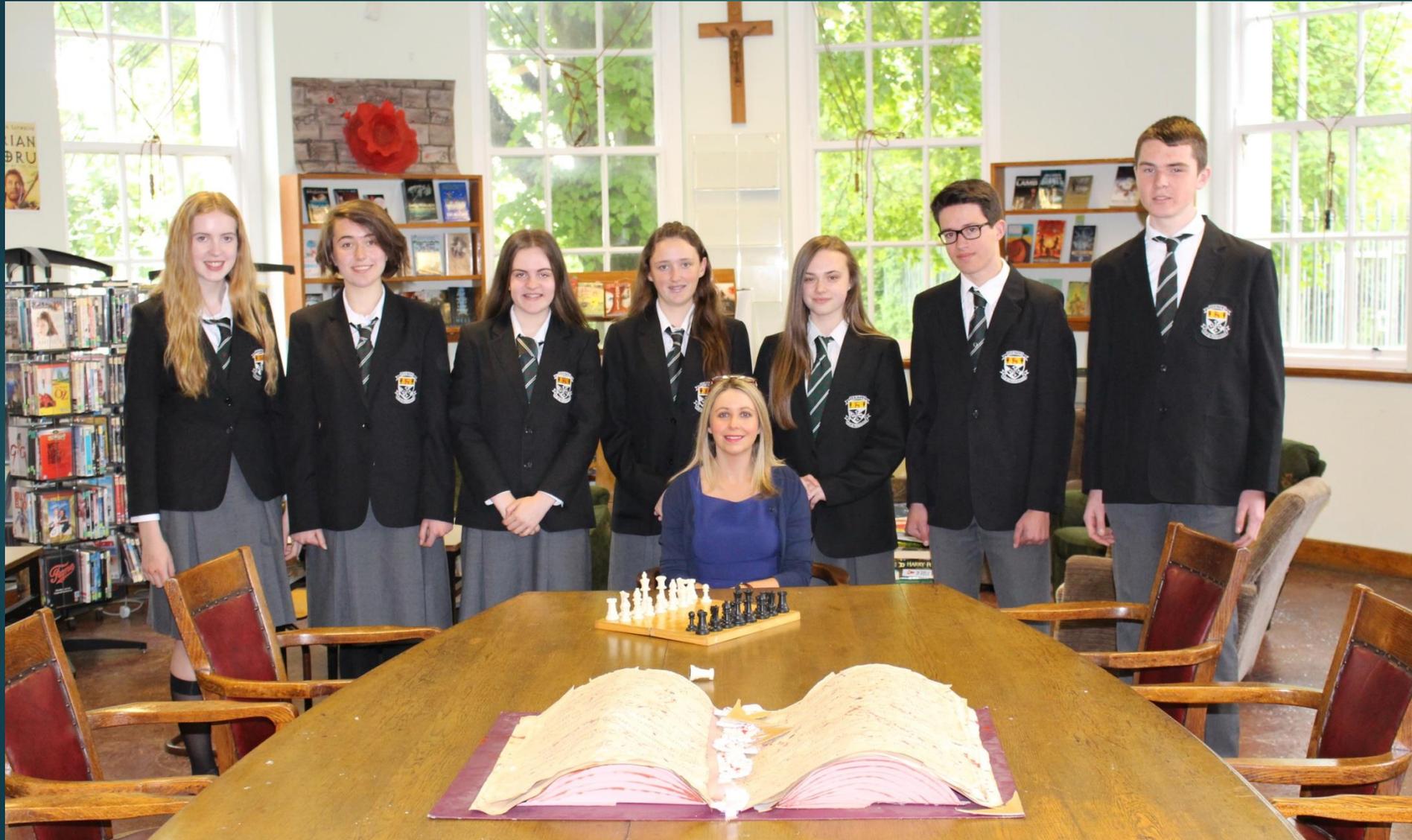
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The Mortal Instruments: City Of Bones  
by Cassandra Clare

Set in New York City, 'City of Bones' tells the story of Clary Fray, a girl who has been seeing strange things that no one else around her does, such as vampires, werewolves and demons. Clary learns that she's a Shadowhunter, a half angel half human warrior trained to protect humanity from all the evils lurking in our world. The six-book series is an action packed hilarious saga full of memorable characters that you will never want to end.

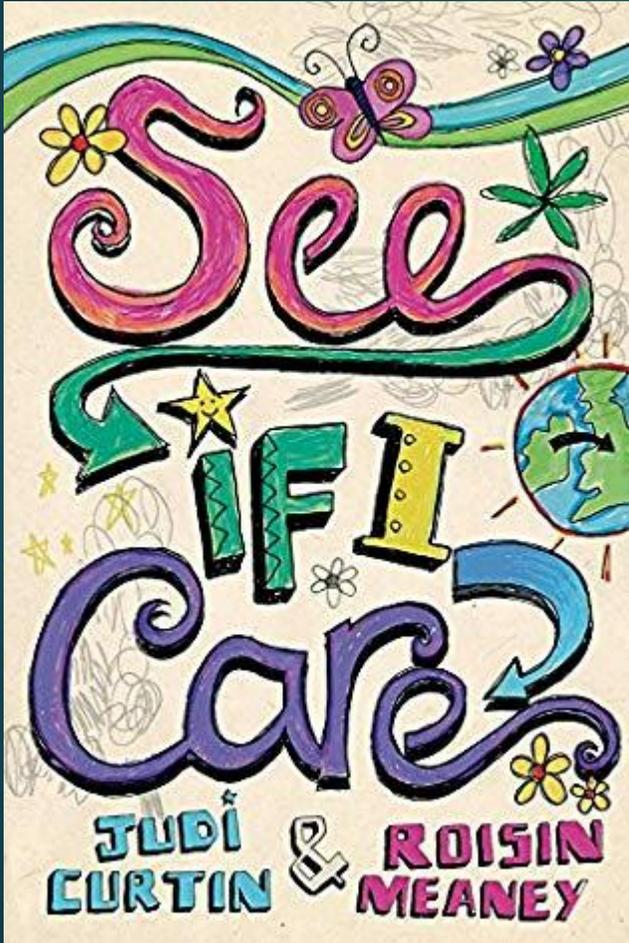
# Library Prefects



- Each Library Prefect is interviewed at the beginning of the school year.
- They help with ordering stock, writing for the blog, alphabetising the books and promoting reading throughout the school.

# We began by launching our 'One Book, One School, One Community Project

- ▶ Each first year student received a copy of the book 'See if i Care' written by Róisín Meaney and a reading schedule that they could follow with their parents' on a weekly basis. Róisín kindly launched our initiative and the students a chance to meet her in person.



# One Book, One School, One Community

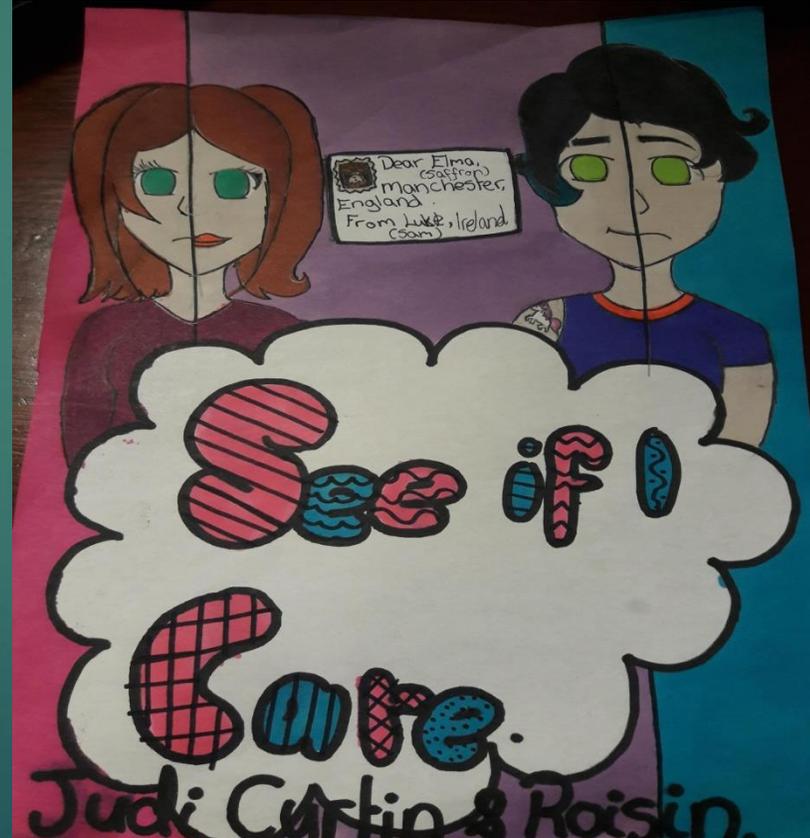


Sharing the reading experience



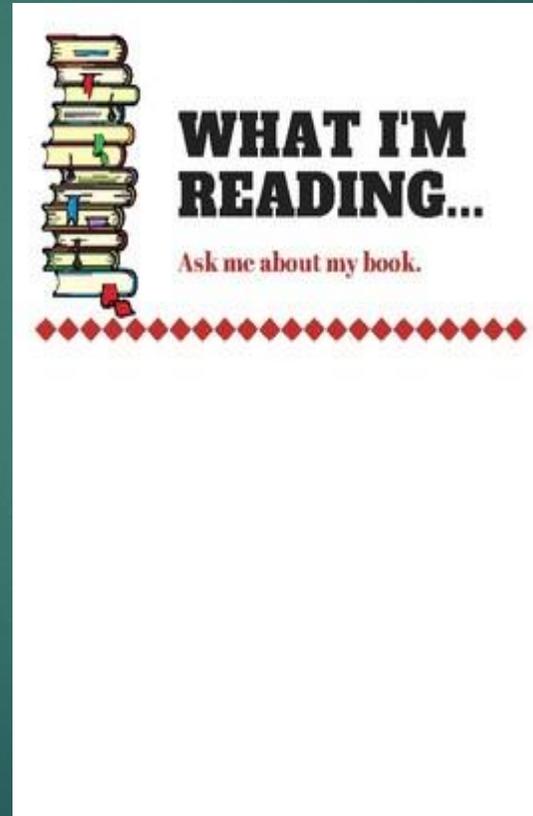
This initiative was supported by staff, parents and students

We followed up this initiative with class quizzes, book reviews and a competition to re-design the front cover of the novel.

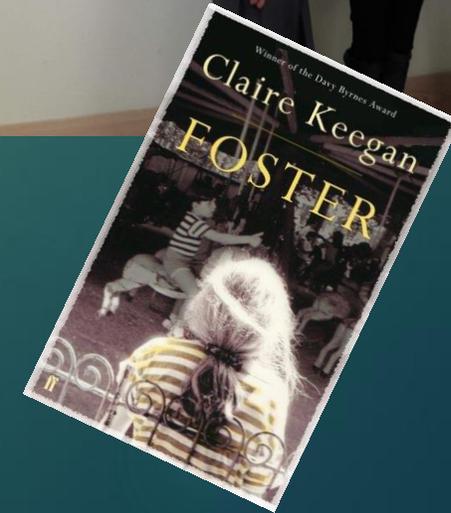
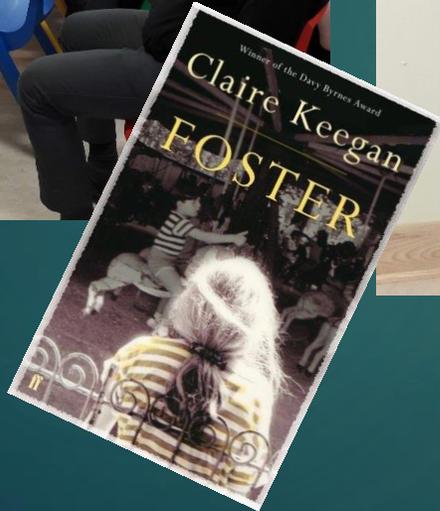


# 'What I'm Currently Reading Poster'

(Whole school staff engagement in the promotion of reading)



# Author Visit: Claire Keegan visits Newbridge College



# Author Visit: Donal Ryan Visits Newbridge College



# We even got an article in the Kildare Nationalist Newspaper

## Kildare Nationalist

HOME | KILDARE NEWS | KILDARE SPORT | JOBS | ADVERTISE



Reaching a wider community



# We established Newbridge College Book Club



An invitation to join our school book club was extended to all staff members and parents – the book club has been running since January and will continue in September

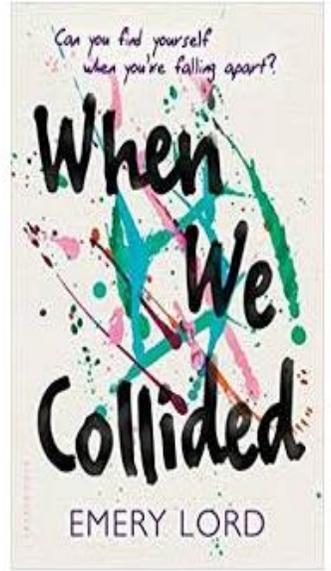
We launched our very own Library Blog because we wanted to reach the wider community

<https://newbridgecollegelibrary.home.blog/2019/03/>



# NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE LIBRARY

A school library blog



**Prefect Picks**  
Why not try something new?



**Prefect Picks**  
Try recommendations from our prefects



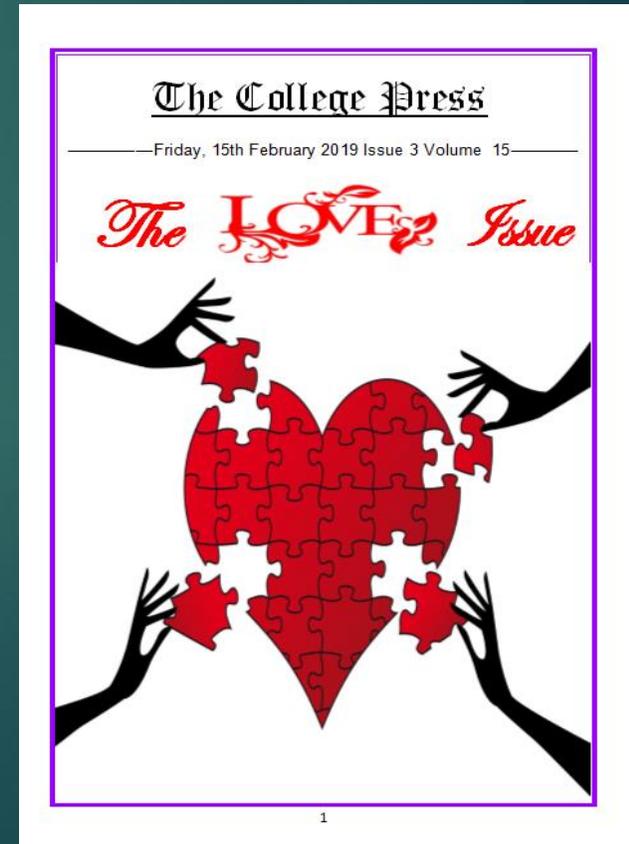
An opportunity to share the reading experience and make recommendations

SEE IF I CARE – BOOK REVIEW  
BY RACHEL BYRNE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – BOOK  
REVIEW BY SARAH ANDERSON



- We also have our very own school magazine, The College Press. Another opportunity to reach the wider community with our student led publication



# Halloween Pop-Up Library



- Library Prefects set up and ran a Halloween themed pop-up library in the social area.
- A chance to promote and showcase new stock and of course a few horror novels.
- We did this to make the library visible to those who may have forgotten about it.
- After all, reading is a great way to alleviate stress!

# Applying for the Wellread Award gave us the opportunity to renovate our library space



Before applying for the Wellread Award, our library was dull, uninviting and outdated. We needed to do some renovations in order to make it appealing to our students and staff

BEFORE...

# Renovation in progress...



- The library got a **FRESH COAT OF PAINT**, serene green and cool cream
- We **MOVED THE LARGE BOARD TABLE** and placed it in the centre of the library to create a new work/reading area.
- We **PURCHASED NEW FURNITURE**
- We **COLLABORATED WITH THE ART DEPARTMENT** and added some beautiful, colourful pieces of artwork that really brightened up the space and made it more attractive to students to come and read.
- We **PURCHASED 1300 EUROS WORTH OF STOCK** from Barker and Jones Naas

AFTER...We are now very proud of  
our library



By moving the board table, we have created a space whereby full class groups can sit around it and read, listen and learn.



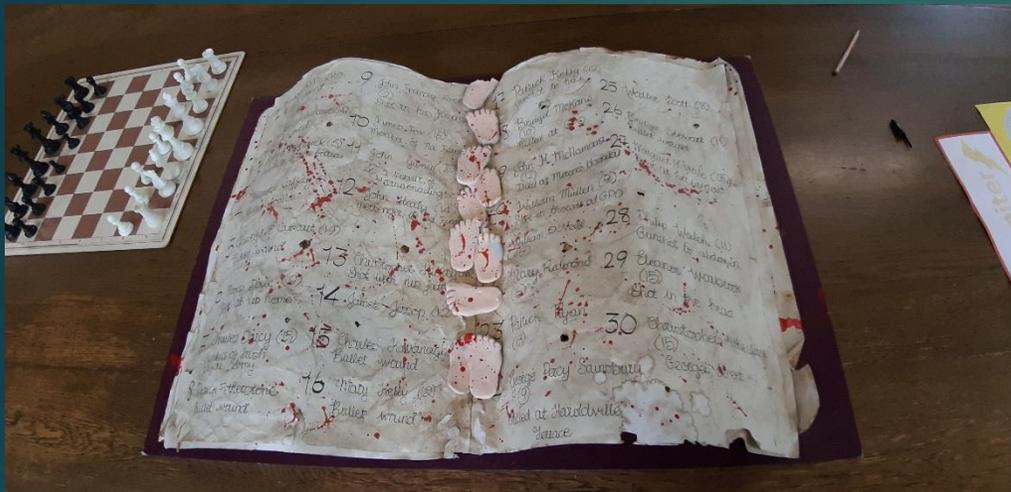
It's an ideal space that we now use more frequently for author visits, meetings and workshops.



Linking up with the Art Department helped us decorate our newly renovated library space.



# Brightening up our library...



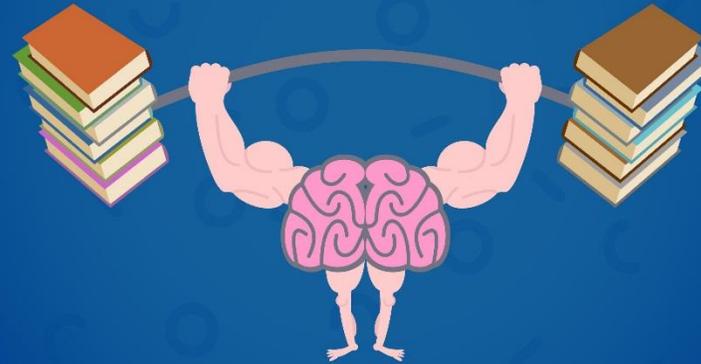
Our library is a space where we recognise that ALL types of texts are important...



# After all, Science has proven that READING REDUCES STRESS...



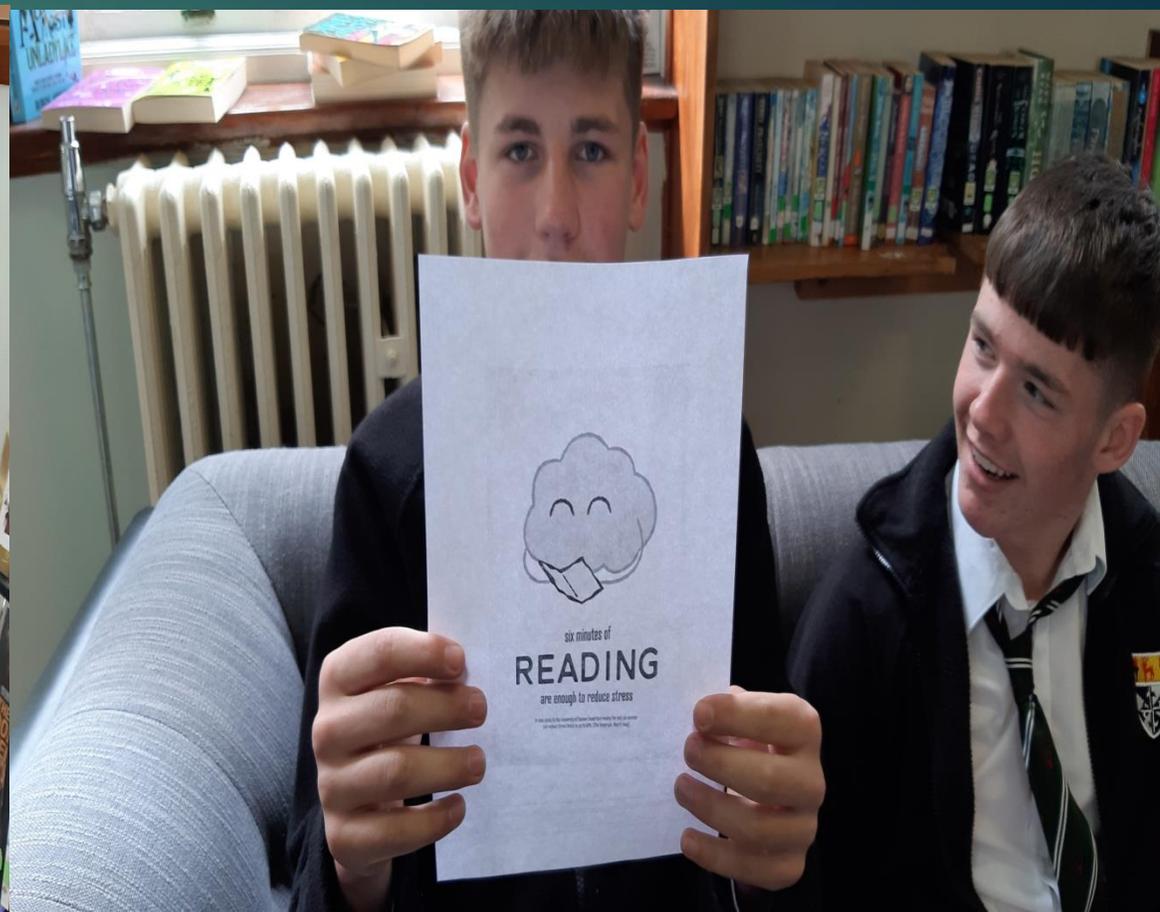
## Reading is the best exercise



for your **brain.**



# So we tested it out!



# We also launched our Book Buddy Initiative for the second year running...



TY students are paired with First Year students and meet up once a week to read together in the library. We are dedicated to promoting reading for pleasure in our school.

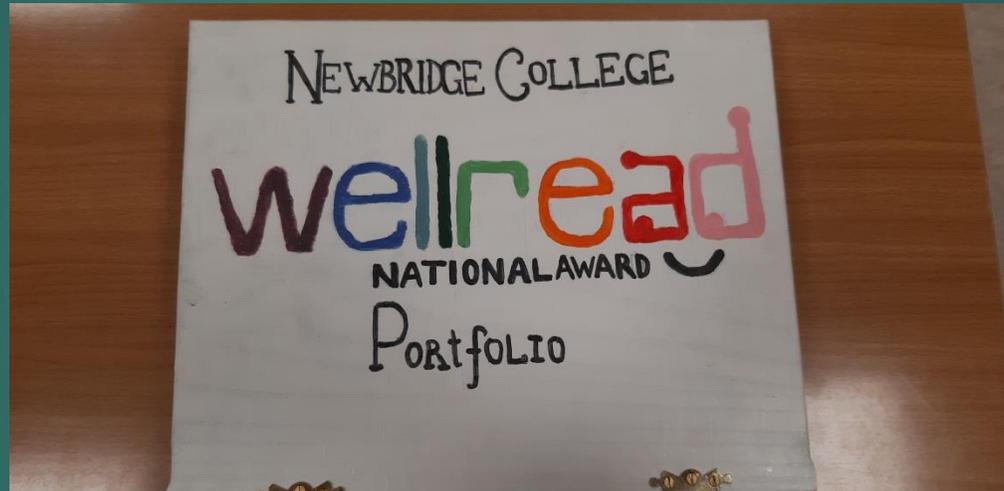
Surveying the student body revealed that there was a demand for visual comics... We listened and we are investing.



# We wanted to attract students into the newly renovated library by having a Spelling BEE



We submitted our WELLREAD PORTFOLIO  
(Decorated by the Art Department) and hoped for  
the best...



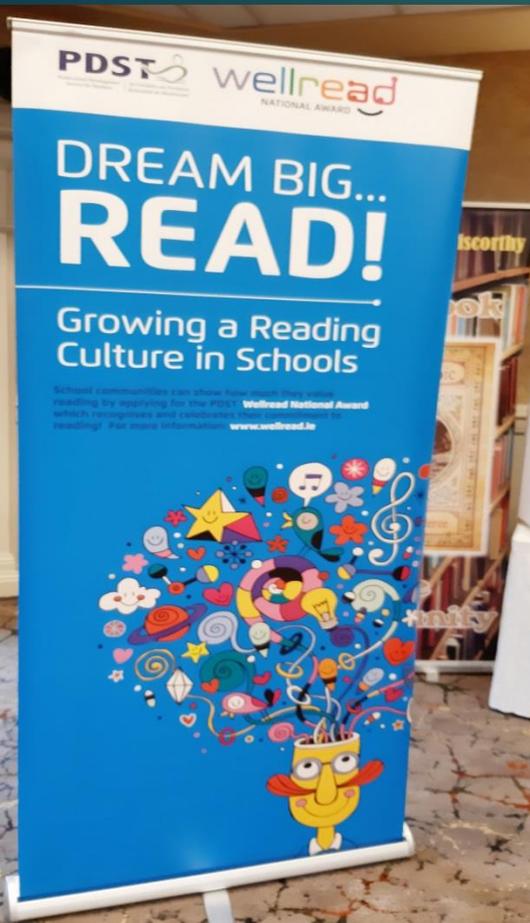
We did it! Our hard work paid off



# We are officially recognised as a WELLREAD school for the next three years 2019-2021



# We hope you enjoyed our Wellread Journey – this is only the beginning...

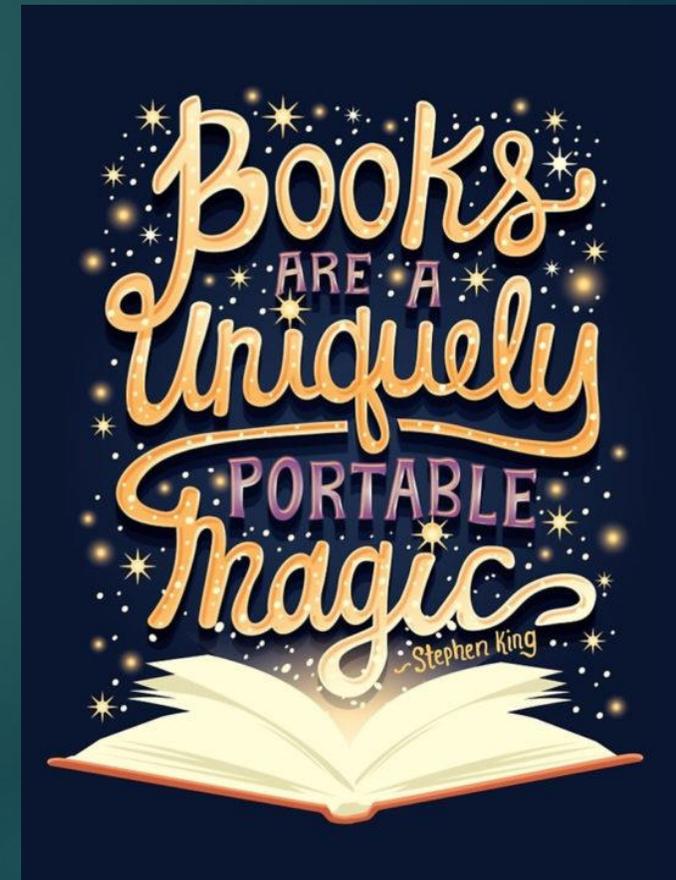


Come visit Newbridge College Library, we are open every lunchtime (exc Wed) 1-1.40pm

After school 4-5pm

Keep up to date with what's happening in our library through our Library Blog- it's accessible through our school website [www.newbridge-college.ie](http://www.newbridge-college.ie)

<https://newbridgecollegelibrary.home.blog/>



Thank you to everyone who helped us along  
the way...Management, staff and most  
importantly students

