

## Self-Evaluation Literacy Update May 2017

**In the last year, we have looked at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered:**

Our aim for promoting reading for pleasure was supported by a new campaign to increase numbers visiting the library in school, to launch a new weekly bookclub called The Pageturner's Club.

We discovered that students liked the option of quiet reading time on Wednesdays, with the option of chatting about their books in the informal lunch-time setting. Student Council members enjoyed the role of supporting readers by welcoming them, offering free hot chocolate and it was a successful reading community throughout the year. We found that students really enjoyed the visit from the author Dave Rudden, and will seek similarly engaging writers in future. We noted that students were eager to read more non-fiction such as newspapers and sports autobiographies, and that they would like more comfortable seating in the library, and greater access to audiobooks. We have learned that they value reading as a form of wellbeing, many responded in a survey that they valued it as "quiet time" for thinking and used it to relax before falling asleep at home. The majority felt that they would not like their reading classes to become more active with oral reviews and discussion.

**This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better:**

We surveyed First Year students about their reading habits and attitudes in May 2017. We gathered information about how often they were reading, what kind of genres they enjoyed, whether they felt it was worthwhile to read, and how it could help in their daily lives, what promotions they had liked during the year, such as visiting authors, library class, competitions etc... We will consider all of these views to guide our planning as we continue to improve literacy in our school.

**This is what we are now going to work on:**

We will redesign our library to make it an even more comfortable and inviting reading space. We think it can be a physical space that will be conducive to better wellbeing, and will seek to use colour, new seating and a wider range of book genres to promote reading as a pleasure for life. We will continue with other initiatives such as promoting our own love of books by creating door posters to tell students what books we have enjoyed or are currently enjoying.

**This is what you can do to help:**

We invite you to get involved on our second "One Book, One Community" next year. It will run from October to January and we welcome your recommendations for a good book with wide

appeal. We chose *All the Light we Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr in 2016/17. It was well received by students, teachers and many parents. You can help us at CNS to instil a love of reading by offering books as presents for your children, and talking them about the books they are reading at school or home time.