



## A Message from Our Head of Year 9

Over the past year we have had many hurdles to jump. At times we have galloped over them, yet we have also stumbled at a few posts. Nevertheless, just because we've stumbled doesn't mean that we have fallen or failed; it means that we have tried.

Each day we must reflect on our successes and learn from the obstacles we have faced. I often say to Year 9 that we have to put our best foot forward, and haven't we as a school community been doing just so? We have faced new ways of teaching and learning, new ways to communicate, new ways to attend school and new ways to fulfil each day. With anything new, it can seem daunting at first, but with an open mind, eagerness (and some ICT knowledge!), we have thrived.

Newness comes in many forms and for many it has meant taking up a different hobby, learning a new skill or revisiting an old one. I have personally dusted off my paintbrushes and enjoyed creating paintings in my spare time. It has been my flow through the pandemic (alongside many, many walks too of course!). Getting lost in the myriad of colours, shapes and tones of my paint palette has helped me set aside my worries and has most importantly been a time of self-care. What has been your escapism?

Let's keep working towards our goals, supporting one another and most of all, looking after ourselves.

Remember, stumbling doesn't mean you have failed, it means you have tried and have the strength to keep going.

*"Go wisely and slowly. Those who rush stumble and fall."*

Miss Laura Cullen-Byrne (Head of Year 9)



## Back to School or Childcare Setting: Supporting you to support your child.



Parentline NI is running **FREE** and confidential one to one sessions with Parent Support Officer Kathy.

The aim of these sessions is to support any parent/carer who is concerned about their child's separation anxieties or reluctance to return to school.

- Explore your own strengths and feelings.
- Explore ways of coping with change and building resilience.
- Explore separation anxiety and approaches which may help your child to overcome it.
- Explore school reluctance, its various causes and some positive coping strategies.
- Explore co-regulation and ideas to strengthen family communication and relationships.

**When: Every Thursday in March and April**  
For more information or to book a place call free 0808 8020 400

facebook.com/parentlineni

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Believe in children  
 Barnardo's  
Northern Ireland

Is Covid-19 making you worried or sad?

Are you nervous about being back at school?

Is your family finding it tough?

Do you feel anxious for yourself and loved ones?



**Barnardo's NI**  
**See, Hear, Respond**  
can help you.

Call us or visit our website today

[www.barnardos.org.uk/](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/)

[see-hear-respond-northern-ireland](http://see-hear-respond-northern-ireland)

Or call 0800 157 7015 Monday – Friday 12-7pm



Thank You

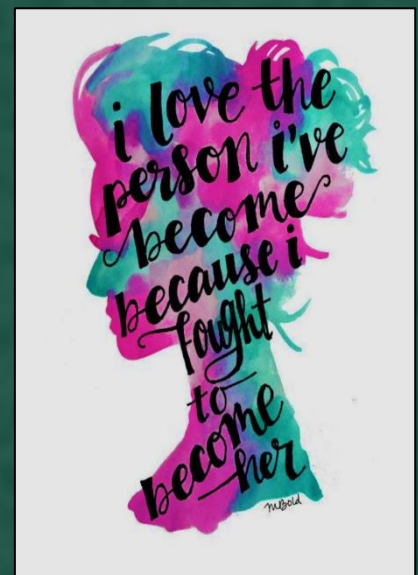


We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our ever helpful Parent Teachers Association. They have kindly sponsored a Roll of Honour Board for those pupils who held the esteemed position of Head Girl in Thornhill College.

This is now proudly displayed in our front foyer. It features the names of those who held this position over the past twenty years. Do you recognise anyone? Don't worry girls there's still enough room for those who may aspire to this role over the next twenty years.

Taylor Brown, our current Head Girl, also expressed her thanks.

"I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our PTA for this kind token of recognition for the hard work and dedication of past Thornhill senior head girls. It is a privilege to have been awarded such an active leadership role in our school community, despite the challenging circumstances of this year, and I am truly honoured to have my name featured on the list!"



### Schools Out for Climate Event – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We are four young women who believe in the importance of educating people in our area on the impact of Climate Change & Biodiversity Loss.

Interact. Inform. Inspire; that is our goal.

We wish to ask you to support our environment, to enjoy the benefits of nature and to care for our Earth. You can do this by supporting our Schools Out for Climate Event and help educate our young people on Climate Change and the environment. Will you help us?

The Schools Out for Climate event is a day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2021; the goal being to provide positive education on the environment and climate. It is aimed at young people and children to help educate, inform and inspire them.

We wish to promote the positive aspects of the environment and reinforce the benefits of nature and the importance of caring for our Earth. Our intention is not to scare people into making a change, rather we wish to inspire them.

The event on the 19<sup>th</sup> March will be online, due to current restrictions. A number of the activities will be pre-recorded, to allow you to participate at a time that suits you. This also means you can attend your Live lessons, follow your work on GC as well as enjoy the day's activities. The event will include a number of activities; yoga, crafts, and other educational events.

We want this event to be for our council area, looking at what we can do to help the environment and our impact on a bigger scale.

It is important to be educated on the impact of our actions on the Earth, and how we, as individuals, can look after the environment. This is exactly what we hope to achieve with our event on the 19th of March. Hope to see you there.

Our work is being supported by: St. Columb's Park House, and Zero Waste North West.

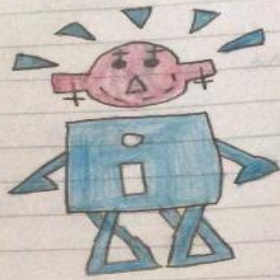
Amy Barber, Cliona Orr, Dearbhla McMenamain and Cliona Blackery (Year 14)





Well done to our Year 8 students who have been revising their knowledge of Ordnance Survey symbols in Geography by creating their very own O.S. people. Fantastic creativity ladies - great work!

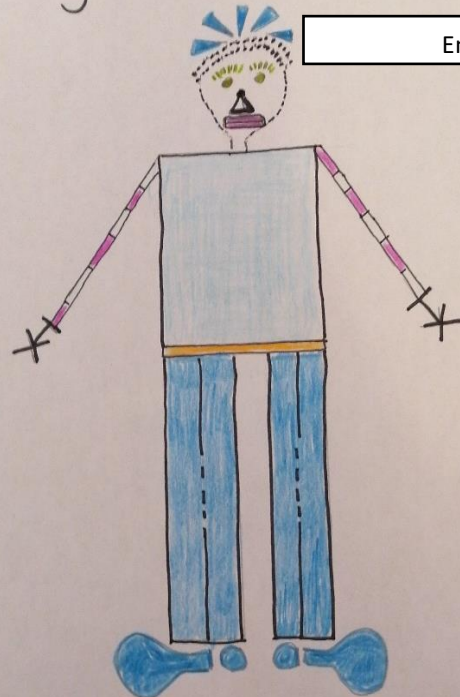
Oonagh 8G



- Bus station
- viewpoint
- Church with spire
- youth hostel
- foot path
- church
- tourist info
- golf course
- camp site

Emma 8E

My OS Person!



- Viewpoint - hair
- Dual carriageway - lips
- Road under construction - arms
- wind pump - hands
- Beacon - nose
- other roads with public access - eyes
- Bracken, heath, rough grassland - eye brows
- water - top
- motorway
- Jeans
- walks or trails - feet
- Secondary road - belt
- Sand pit - head

Sophie 8E

My OS Person

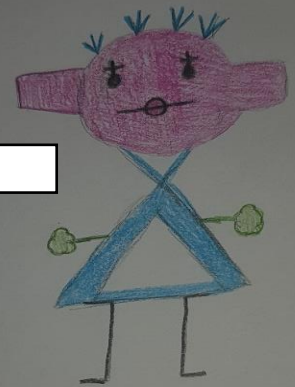
- Key:-**
- Head = Sand pit
  - Eyes = London River Services
  - Nose = Youth Hostel
  - Mouth = Phone, public, emergency
  - T-shirt = Bunkhouse, camping barn or other hostel
  - Sleeves = Beacon
  - Arms = Motor way
  - Hands = Viewpoint
  - Legs = Road generally less than 4m wide
  - Feet = Heliport
- My OS Pet key:-**
- Ears = Triangulation pillar
  - Head = London River Services
  - Body = Quarry
  - Tail = wind turbine
  - Nose = Bus Station
  - Eyes = youth hostel
  - Mouth = Phone, public, emergency
  - Legs + feet = Mast



Ophelia



Eamair 8F



KEY

- Head - Bus Station
- Eyes - Church + Spire
- Mouth - Railway Station
- Body - Camp Site
- Arms - Deciduous Woodland
- Legs - Bridge
- Hair - Marsh

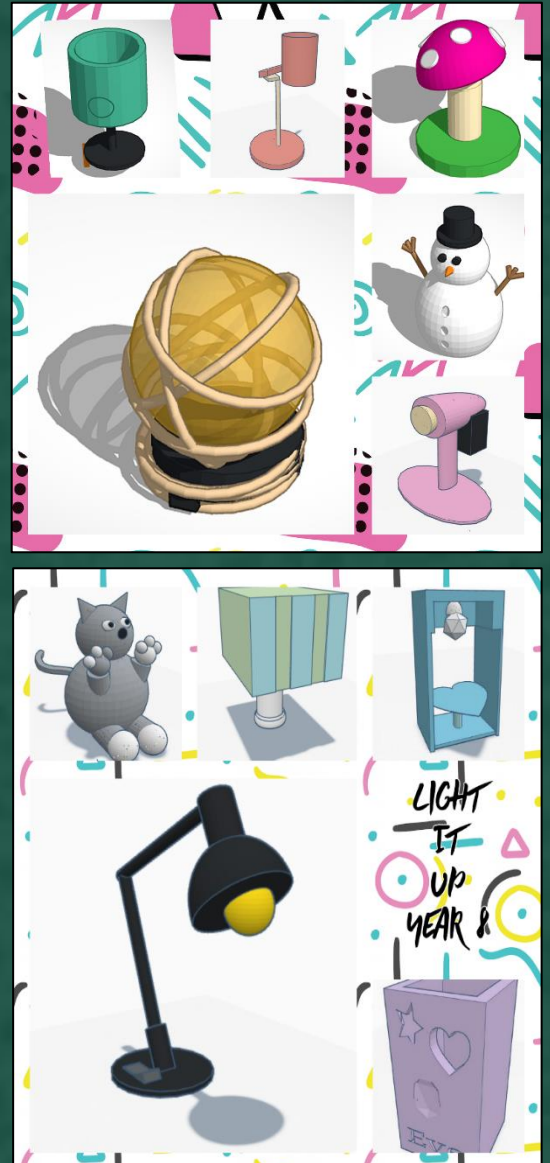
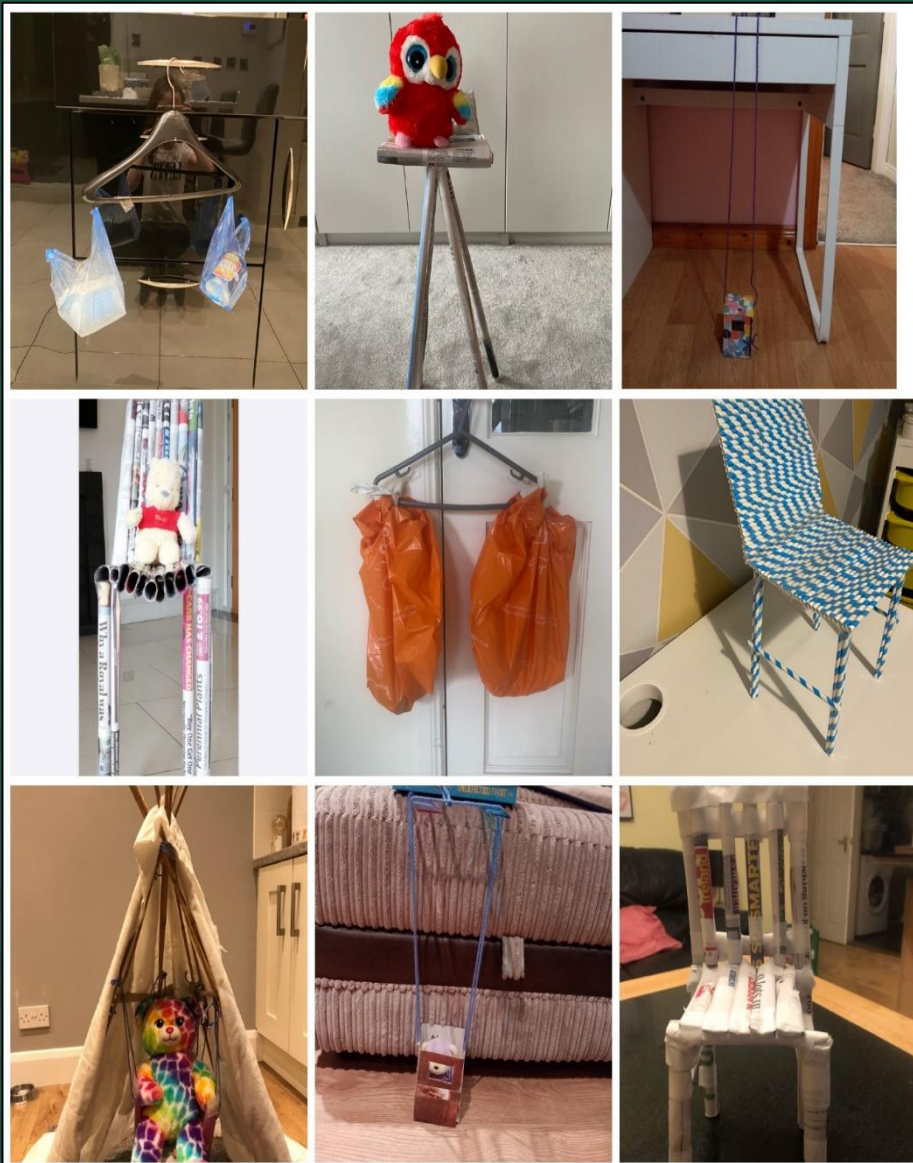
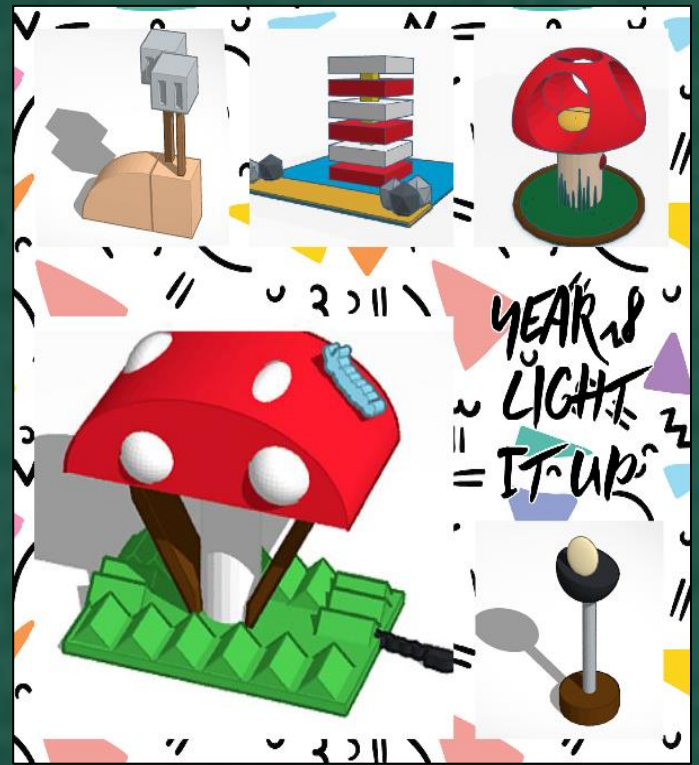




# Technology & Design



KS3 students carried out some excellent challenges to celebrate STEPS Engineers Week 2021. Students could select from a range of challenges to use their problem solving skills to complete their models. Excellent work and well done!







### Drama



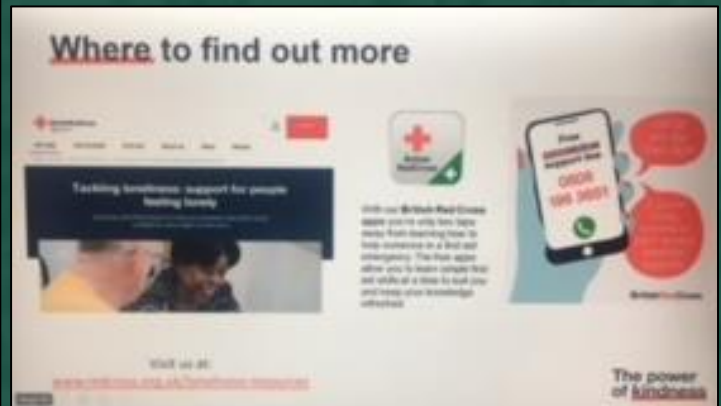
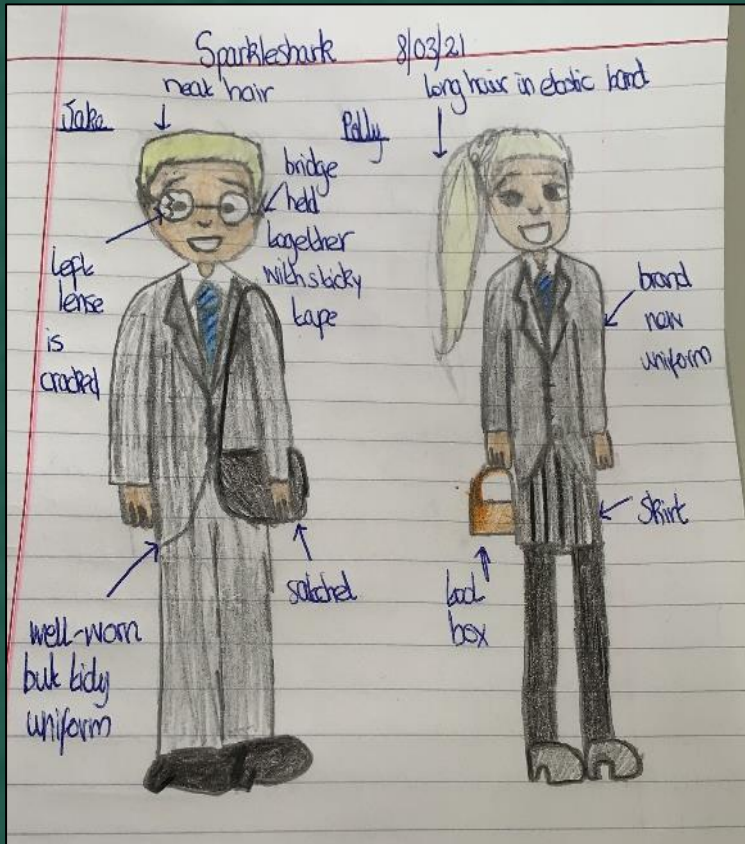
Our Year 10 students created some wonderful costume designs this week in their Drama classes for their plays including this fantastic example for the Year 10 original play, 'Sparkleshark.' Brilliant work girls – well done!



### Virtual First Aid Course



Well done to our Middle Prefect Team who successfully completed a virtual first aid training course last week. Our thanks go to Nigel Wildman and Allison Bradley from the Red Cross for providing the training.



### Careers Corner



Martin Lewis has produced an excellent video, "Student Loans Decoded" outlining very useful information on finance and student loans, for parents and students. This might be of great interest to our Year 14 students their parents.

The link for the video is:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=mO\\_rAsMuAIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=mO_rAsMuAIM)



### Star Artists Gallery



We continue to be amazed by the creative talents of our girls during lockdown. Just take a look at this selection of fantastic pieces of art work from the last week. Well done girls and keep the great work up!!!



Kavla 9B



Eva 9G



Holly 9G

FASHION DESIGN





Ava 9A



Ciara 8E



Caitlin 9B



Roise 9C



Cora 9C



Emma 8E



Sarah 9B

*Walk All Over Cancer Fundraising for the Foyle Hospice*

After week 2 of our staff #WalkAllOverCancer challenge in support of the Foyle Hospice the leading group is the Red Team!! Well done to all the members of the Red Team and everyone else involved for the great efforts with their steps this week!

Congratulations to Miss Gillespie who has clocked up the most individual steps so far at an amazing 241,476!!!! Very impressive!

It's only the start of week 3, and our staff have already raised a fantastic £762 for the Foyle Hospice. Our congratulations to everyone involved and good luck with keeping your steps up!!!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thornhill-college>

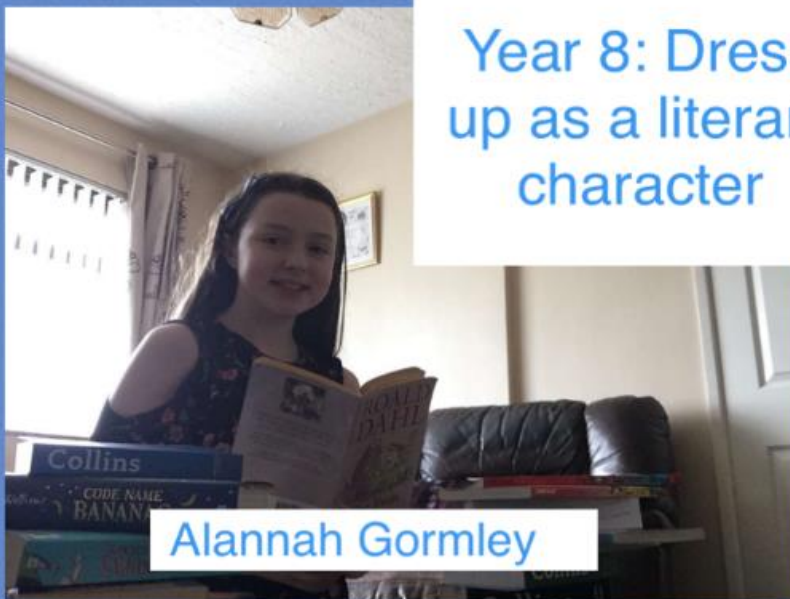




Earlier this month we celebrated World Book Day remotely. Our students took part in lots of fun activities, including quizzes and competitions. Below are some of the entries for each competition and the winner in each category.

# WORLD BOOK DAY

4 MARCH 2021

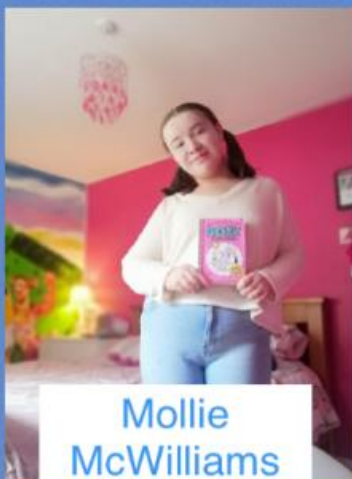


Alannah Gormley

Year 8: Dress up as a literary character



Winner: Emma McNutt



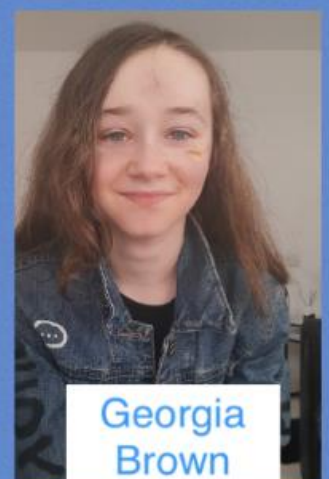
Mollie McWilliams



Rachel Curran



Isabella McErlean



Georgia Brown



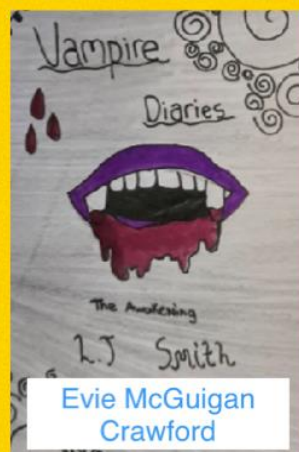
Year 9  
Competition  
Redesign a  
famous  
book cover



Winner: Leia Whitman



Victoria  
Slomkwska



Evie McGuigan  
Crawford



Amy Fox



Eve Deeney



Emily Clifford



Sarah Hasson



Sophie Duffy



Kayla Fegan



Sarah Hunter



Caitlin Lees



Amber  
McGroarty



Year 10 World Book Day Competition  
'Get creative with books'



Winner: Hannah Wade 10B



Katey McMenamin



Anna O'Kane



Jana Marzouk



Ellie Owen



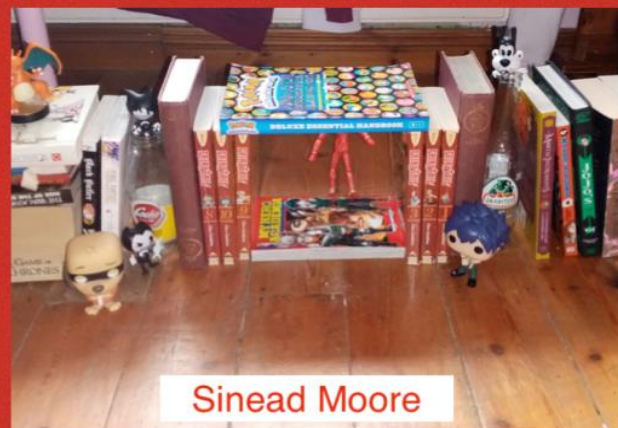
Blathnaid McMenamin



Katherine Hickey



Beth Tinney



Sinead Moore



Roisin O'Donnell



## KS5 Story Winner: Orla O'Doherty Year 13

### The Bookkeeper

A crystalline layer of perspiration laced his furrowed brow as he worked, chipping away with the careful precision of a man with a multitude of experience behind him. At his right sat his toolkit, the initials engraved with evident scrupulosity; a testament to his character. The old man's hands were leather, much resembling the outer binding of the precious books he dedicated his life to creating. Each motion of the chisel was a beautifully mechanical movement, graceful in its simplicity. A plethora of books lined the floor-to-ceiling shelves, each one crafted by hand.

Arthur Butler, a man well into his eighties was known by the locals of the village as "the bookkeeper". His eccentricities were once a common conversation topic, no man accepted normality. He knew the others considered him "a peculiar little fellow", but he was happy. Not the ecstatic, euphoric happy, but a deep happy. An inner sense of personal contentment known by many but experienced by few. Arthur Butler was one of these few. He saw the world differently. To him everything was beautiful and that which was created by his own hand was the most beautiful of all.

Arthur was a book maker. He spent endless hours, working tirelessly in his workshop until dusk, when the last slivers of sunlight would illuminate the room with a myriad of colour, hues of amber, violet and crimson. His most prized creation was his grand piano, dominating the area where it presided, its glistening, onyx exterior, a breathtaking sight. This particular evening, after a laborious day of manual labour, he sat down to play, crumpling onto the seat with a heavy awkwardness. He glided his calloused fingers over the yellowing keys, producing a sound of angelic quality. Everything he engaged in, he donated his undivided attention to.

Until now.

As he was becoming consumed by the music, sacrificing himself to it, he heard a rustle and a gentle gust of wind caressed his cheek. His fingers stilled, the room now a chasm of empty silence. Again, a rustle. He jolted his head with a staccato effect but to no avail. Something was occupying the vast expanse of room. He surveyed his surroundings with a profound awareness, eyes darting erratically. Still, nothing. He decided to venture around the room, proceeding with anxious caution. Each step was tentative, an ominous sense of foreboding clouding his thoughts. Something in the right corner of the room caught his eye. He could hear a gentle buzz becoming increasingly louder with each advancing footstep. It sounded like a massive bee, or a swarm.

Panic. Breathing heavily. Oh no.

He meandered around the Swiss Cheese plant behind his bookshelf and the sight which greeted him was nothing short of bewildering. There, fluttering in front of him, was a book. Its pages the leaves which agitated the air around it, creating the softest of winds.

He chuckled heartily to himself as he thought, "I'm not a keeper of bees, I'm a keeper of books."



## KS4 Story Winner: Caitlin O'Callaghan-Ferry

### The Bookkeeper

"I don't want it to end!", the little girl whined as the Bookkeeper finished her favourite book for the third time that day. "A story has always got to end at some point Jane, and besides you'll be back tomorrow to hear it again." This was a daily routine for Jane, a small, pale, fair haired eight-year-old girl. Her favourite part of the day was going to the local library to see her favourite bookkeeper, Mr Hodges, and listen to her favourite story. She would like to imagine that she was the girl in the story, a beautiful princess waiting for her prince charming, with not a worry in the world. Jane and Mr Hodges had a very special connection, they had known each other since Jane was just four years old and he had read the same story to her since the day they first met. "Aren't you sick of this story yet?", Mr Hodges asked Jane, who was sitting by the door waiting for her mother to pick her up. "No way! I could never get sick of it, I'll have you read it to me until the day I die!", Jane exclaimed. Mr Hodges chuckled. "Very well, if that's what you want then I'm sure we can make that happen."

A lady's voice was heard from the distance. "Jane?", the voice shouted. "Mummy!" Jane shouted with a big grin on her face. "I missed you!". Jane's mother hugged her tightly and gave her a kiss on the cheek. "I missed you too, my dear. Were you well behaved for Mr Hodges today?", her mother asked. "Of course she was, she's always a delight to see every day.", Mr Hodges assured Jane's mother. "Thank you, Mr Hodges! Also, I liked your hat today!", Jane said. Mr Hodges always had a new hat on every day to get in character for the stories that he read. "Why thank you Jane! And I like your hat!" he said. "Thanks Mr Hodges, I don't like it that much but I have to wear it to cover my hair, it's started to fall out because of the medication." There was a moment of silence in the library as Mr Hodges realised what Jane was saying. He tried to talk to Jane and her mother but nothing came out of his mouth as he was in utter shock. "Anyways, I'll see you tomorrow Mr Hodges! Bye!" Jane said as she sweetly slipped out of the room, her mother following behind her.

Even after the two had left, Mr Hodges still stood in the middle of the library, not moving a muscle, not saying a single word, just left trying to process the information he had just received. It was 6:00pm, time for the library to close. Mr Hodges walked outside and locked the doors behind him. He got into his car, trying to take his mind off of everything, but all he could think about was little Jane. "Is she going to be okay?" he constantly asked himself in his mind. He arrived home, and didn't do anything for hours but worry about Jane.

The next day, Mr Hodges was back at the library, and it was coming up to 4pm, the usual time Jane would come for her daily story. Mr Hodges planned on asking Jane about her illness and if she was going to be okay, as he didn't get the chance to the day before. Fifteen minutes passed, yet still no sight of Jane. "That's strange." Mr Hodges thought to himself, as Jane was normally always on time. "Perhaps I should call home and ask of her whereabouts." Mr Hodges picked up the telephone and dialled Jane's home phone. It rang for a few seconds until someone picked up. "Hello?", it was Jane's mother who had answered the phone. "Hello, I was wondering where Jane is, she's not here for her usual story.", said Mr Hodges in a questioning manner. "Oh...well you see, Jane's not doing very well and...well we're not sure she'll make it even to the end of the day.", said Jane's mother with a lump in her throat. The Bookkeeper's knees became weak as he heard the words come out of her mouth. His eyes filled up with tears and he struggled to breathe from the shock. "Oh", he said, barely able to even say anymore. "Is there any chance...perhaps I could come and read Jane her favourite story one last time?" Jane's mother agreed so Mr Hodges grabbed Jane's book and rushed over as fast as possible. When he arrived, Jane's mother let him in and pointed to the couch, not able to say any words. Mr Hodges looked in the direction of which she was pointing, only to see Jane laying there, paler than ever. He trembled over and sits down beside her. "Jane, I... I brought your favourite story to read to you", he stuttered. The helpless little girl smiled at his words and intently listened to her favourite story for the final time. As Mr Hodges got to the last line of the book, Jane closed her eyes and just before her final breath, she said hopelessly, "I don't want it to end...".