

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has recently borrowed two copies of the same book from the college library – one each for you to read. Here in the College Library we are actively promoting ‘family reading’ with the aim of raising the profile of reading as a pastime.

We are very much aware that reading, as a pastime, has been in decline over recent years, with computer games and other types of technology competing for children’s spare time. However we believe that if a young person is introduced to books within a family environment then reading as a hobby will develop into a pastime that will remain with them through the many stages of their lives ahead.

Reading for pleasure, although primarily an independent activity, can have far reaching and positive consequences. For example, likeminded young people can take part in exciting conversations such as ‘Have you read that book by...? – I can’t put it down!’ new friendships can be forged and lessons in life can be learnt within a fictional setting. Fostering a love of reading for pleasure has huge benefits for young people and can help develop social and emotional maturity and independence.

Since 2004, members of our Reading Groups have participated in the Carnegie Book Award Shadowing Scheme ([www.ckg.org.uk](http://www.ckg.org.uk)). As a result we have a collection of some of the best examples of books written for young people over recent years. We would very much like parents to sample these books whilst at the same time creating a buzz about books within the family.

Taking part in ‘Family Reading’- tips for success!

- Leave the choice of book up to your child – hopefully they’ll choose a book you will enjoy!
- Try to read at the same speed- resist the temptation to race ahead of the other reader once the story has you hooked!
- Discuss the good bits!
- Don’t get ‘hung up’ on the bits you don’t like!
- ALWAYS try to finish the book. You can’t fully judge a book by only reading half of it!
- Tell someone else in the family about the book you have read – and pass it on! (remember to renew books if you need them for a longer period.)
- SPREAD the word...reading is COOL!

We look forward to receiving your feedback on this exercise and would be happy to discuss any matter with you regarding promoting reading for enjoyment amongst young people- and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen Stebbings

College Librarian