

Cheadle Hulme High School Eclipse Case Study

We are an 11-16 comprehensive school with 1350 students. When I started here Eclipse was already installed, and having struggled a bit with Alice at my previous school, I was anxious that I might be faced with more of the same from a library system I was unfamiliar with.

However, I was pleasantly surprised at how straight forward and versatile the system was. I taught myself to use Eclipse with help from the manual and whenever I needed advice, the Help Desk were always on hand and were extremely helpful.

I have a rolling programme of library helpers who follow a comprehensive training programme and without exception all are itching to get behind the desk and wield the barcode reader and finger print scanner. Being a student librarian is the height of écoolnessí and a post much envied by other students!

We have SearchStar available on all computers in the library and if someone needs to find a book the helpers vie with each other to offer advice: “Labradora is a bit specific, why don’t you try a keyword search for dogs. Or books by Roald Dahl? Yesh we’ve got loads, but if you’re doing an author search make sure you just type in the author’s surname.”

One of the biggest hits has been Identikit. In spite of young people being so blasé about new technology, they are all much impressed by the finger print scanner. A few have even asked when the MLS are going to develop a retina scanner.

I’ve been delighted at the ease with which SearchStar has been networked. It’s great for the library to do a bit of empire building, and now, wherever you are in school, you can log-on and search the catalogue.

Overall Eclipse is fantastically straightforward to use, but sophisticated enough to meet all the requirements of a large and busy library. It gives students a greater sense of ownership and involvement in their library, whether it’s tracking the reservation list for Ark Angel, writing book reviews, or searching for books to help with their coursework.



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