

De La Salle College, Dundalk, Ireland

Eclipse Case Study

De La Salle College is an all boys Second Level Boys' School that caters for 500 to 600 students between the ages of 11 and 19.

The school library is at the heart of the school building. Until 2004, it was disused and was stuck in the past. In 2004, the College Library underwent a major overhaul. Through funding, the school library was refurbished and completely re-stocked with new fiction and non-fiction books. The aim of the project is to increase literacy, have students reading for pleasure and to have a place where students can research topics independent of their teachers.

Until June 2006, the old card system was in place and it was a nightmare if the cardholders were up turned! We saw many demonstrations on a number of products but as soon as we saw just how easy Eclipse 2 was to use and the cost, the package was bought! A training day was offered and we gladly took it. Daniel Tennant provided us with a very informative and comprehensive introduction to Eclipse 2, pointing out different features and answering all of our questions. No matter how simple! The training day was a huge benefit to us.

Library skills of the students have improved a hundred fold since the introduction of Search Star. They are now much more aware of the Dewey decimal classification system and the Alphabetizing of fiction books. Students have said that Search Star is so simple to use and they love how it looks.

"Library life has changed for the better since Eclipse 2 arrived. The library is now full of life and I simply can't imagine life in the school library without it!"

Jennifer McGuinness
Assistant Librarian

Since the installation of Eclipse 2, the library has been a different place. Life for the librarians has become much easier and the cataloguing of books is a pleasure to do! Students are in everyday at lunchtime, simply reading for pleasure or researching.

Importing the student data went by without a hitch! The user manual is so clear and everything is done step by step. If you have any problems all you have to do is pick up the phone and ring the help desk, where friendly, well-informed staff at the other end will greet you!

The ease of use of Eclipse 2 is fantastic. It is easy to keep track of all student loans, reservations and searching for books is painless. All the information is there at your fingertips! The reports facility is excellent. It's easy to compile a 'Monthly Top Tens' of books and 'Top Readers' for every tutor group, things that were not possible to do using the old card system. Eclipse 2 is efficient, reliable and easy to use.

Search Star has been a huge success with the students. They love the fact that they have their very own account in the library, complete with PIN and password! Students also like the fact that they can reserve books, write book reviews and view other students' reviews on books to help them decide what book they want to borrow. They are independent.

