

# Deyes High School Eclipse Case Study

Deyes High School is an over-subscribed 11-18 mixed comprehensive school serving the residential areas of Maghull and Lydiate within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton. The School has a roll of 1451 with over 280 in the 6th Form. It is a neighbourhood school, serving the immediate locality. The School enjoys an excellent reputation and exam results are well above the Local Authority and National averages.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has a collection of approximately 10,000 books, and a computer suite furnished with twenty-five networked computers. All students have access to the LRC and facilities are provided for browsing, relaxed reading and reference use. The use of reference resources is a major instrument for improving the independent learning of students, a target which is included in the school improvement plan.

In my career as a school librarian, I have had experience of the old Browns ticket system, the SIMS Library module, Alice, Limes Millennia and I finally feel that I have found the best LMS for me with Eclipse 2 from Micro Librarian Systems Ltd.

When I first arrived at Deyes High School, Limes was newly installed and it worked very well. When Limes introduced Evolution, a new version of their software, I realised that the system was no longer suitable for a

school library. The new software seemed to be able to issue lorries, and catered for users other than libraries. It seemed to me to be more for stock control. Then I discovered that there would be no more development of Millennia. The screen would have grey areas, and bugs seemed to appear at an increasing rate.

As part of the Sefton Librarians Group, I attended demonstrations of both Alice (Oliver) and Eclipse. The general consensus amongst our group was that Eclipse had the edge. It took me four months to persuade my line manager that we needed to change. And, finally last December I got the go-ahead to purchase Eclipse 2.

The software was installed in January 2006 and really the library hasn't looked back since. Reading my comments above, I find it hard to believe the problems that the library faced.

“The training day was excellent, and was adjusted to suit my level. But the best way to learn about how everything works is to use it.”



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There were no problems with the data transfer from Limes. I was able to tidy records quickly and easily, something that would take forever with Limes. In addition, all the missing books that I had were put into the recycle bin, so that statistics weren't altered, but were not visible on the database. Some of these books have reappeared in the Library since, and all that I need to do is click restore, and they are back in the catalogue.

In April when I got my new budget, I quickly bought Identikit (the fingerprint recognition system), Labelprint (handy for tickets) and MLSLibraries.net (where MLS hosts a copy of your catalogue online, linked to your school's website). All these additional modules were extremely easy to install.

In September the new Year 7 students were introduced to the library with induction lessons using the SearchStar booklets. These can be easily amended to suit your student requirements. The Year 7s love the system for its interactivity, for example the red flashing dot showing the location of the item they have searched for. They are writing book reviews by the dozen, and taking advantage of the next level of software by reserving items both in school and online.

I wholeheartedly recommend Eclipse, both in terms of the software and for the support from the help desk. You always get to speak to a person, and they can nearly always solve the minor glitches that occur. If it is more major, it is referred to the wish list which means that the software writers can introduce the things that librarians themselves ask for.

There is always something new to discover with Eclipse. Today for example, when I scanned a student ticket, Eclipse told me that it was that student's birthday! This makes the student-librarian relationship so much friendlier; after all they are our customers.

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Ruth Clarke

Learning Resource Centre Manager

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