

# Holmesdale Technology College

## Eclipse Case Study

Holmesdale Technology College is a mixed school of 900 pupils. It is a high school, in a county which retains its grammar schools. The school is a Technology College, and has also just been awarded a second specialism as a Training School. Our results have been improving year on year, and are now very high for a school of our type. The school is also being rebuilt completely under PFI, and is due to open fully for September 2007 intake.

I first changed to Eclipse in my previous school. I had been using LIMES, but had become dissatisfied when the new upgrade arrived. When I saw Eclipse on a product demonstration, I was instantly struck by how much more up to date and user friendly it was, and bought it for my school.

The only thing I was worried about was the transfer of information, but that was so quick and easy, with hardly any glitches, so I was very impressed!

The HelpDesk was wonderful, and the training was excellent as well. I think that the HelpDesk is one of the most important aspects of Eclipse, as you need instant and professional support the

minute anything breaks down, or if you have any queries.

I belong to an internet school librarians group, and I find it significant that librarians who use other Library Management Systems always seem to be asking 'how to' questions of others in the group, but those of us who use Eclipse never ask those questions of each other – we ask our helpdesk! These librarians often complain about the support from their helpdesks, or that they never seem to ring back to queries, but that is not the experience of Eclipse HelpDesk users. When people new to the internet group ask which LMS other librarians recommend, we Eclipse users always are the most enthusiastic about our system!

“The downloads page is brilliant, and you can keep your software updated constantly. The newest look of Eclipse (2.2.19) is a really fresh look, and my pupil librarians love it!”



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We run SearchStar across all the computers in the school, and have it on our VLE so that pupils can access the information at home as well. SearchStar is a really clear WebOpac; I have let staff and pupils know about it, and have demonstrated its usefulness on sixth form induction days. The Sixth Form love the fact that they can compile their bibliographies straight from SearchStar, instead of trying to find the books on the shelves again!

One of the other features that makes Eclipse stand out is the provision of catalogued websites, and the ability to go straight to the website via SearchStar. You can also, for a very small subscription through Caryl Press, buy into WebLinks which is updated every month and downloads straight into Eclipse effortlessly. All the websites are key worded and catalogued, so that a search for volcanoes for instance will not only bring up the books you have available, but a list of suitable and educational websites as well. As with everything in Eclipse, you have the ability to delete websites you don't want to use, or to add ones of your own.

Photos of books and summaries also appear in SearchStar, which makes looking for books enjoyable, and there is the ability to put in a map of your own library so that items can be easily found, which makes independent learning a reality.

My IT staff love Eclipse, as they have had very little involvement with the programme at all. It was easy to install, and the HelpDesk deals with everything else very efficiently.

I am just about to integrate my new online Accelerated Reader programme into Eclipse, so that all the books in the programme will also be flagged up on Eclipse, and pupils can check out which books they would like to read next. That is work in progress at the moment, but I anticipate it being a popular and useful addition as Accelerated Reader is highly used here at Holmesdale Technology College.



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