

# King James's School, Knaresborough Eclipse Case Study

Founded in 1616 with a charter from King James 1, the school has enjoyed a long and distinguished history. Since 1971 it has been a highly successful 11 – 18 comprehensive school with a catchment area extending well beyond the small historic market town of Knaresborough itself. We currently have 1750 pupils on roll, of whom 360 are in the sixth form.

In 2002 the Library was refurbished and Eclipse installed. Prior to that the Library had used the old Brown card system for book issues. The system was unsatisfactory in many ways. It was time consuming, fiddly to manage, open to human error and was even dropped on the floor – tickets everywhere. (OK it was me).

As a forward thinking technology college we were looking for a reliable, state of the art system. Most importantly it had to be easy for the technology phobic Librarian to use. (me again). I attended a demonstration of Eclipse at the North Yorkshire County Council School Library Service Secondary School Conference, aka NYCC SLS conference! I was amazed that I found the system so simple to understand, it was so clever, and that dinky little fingerprint recognition thingy was brilliant. I got details of rival products, but as Eclipse ticked all our boxes and was

priced very competitively, we were not using eLearning Credits, I didn't even bother pursuing them. I was sold.

Eclipse was installed by Dave Twist from MLS in the Autumn of 2002. The Library had closed by this stage. Myself and my colleague Margaret MacKenzie were using a small room as an office. We were surrounded by boxes and boxes of books – the Library. Dave was with us for a day during which he installed the system and showed us how to use it. He certainly earned his salary that day – 2 technologically unaware Librarians, one tiny room piled high with boxes of books, dust and noise from the refurbishment. Everything went smoothly thanks to Dave, he was brilliant. As an ex school Librarian he knew just what we needed to know and answered our questions patiently and with humour! We didn't want him to go and be left on our own .....

We've never looked back. Margaret and I beavered away putting the books onto the system, that bit was easy, it was the dust and noise from the building work that was the problem. While the Library was closed we also enrolled all the pupils onto the system. They were summonsed to our room in forms – in alphabetical order of surname, as Dave had told us – and put on the system painlessly. Staff enrolled at the same time. The fingerprint thingy proved a great hit – and still does. The staff and pupils are still amazed at the system. So are the Librarians.



# King James's School, Knaresborough Eclipse Case Study

MLS provide a simple to use user guide, and the few times I've rung the helpdesk I've got straight through to someone who can actually, well yes, help me!

The Library re-opened in Spring 2003 by which time all the pupils were enrolled and all the books on the system

We use Windows for our operating system. We have 9 computers in the Library with Searchstar on for the pupils, and Margaret and I both have Eclipse on our computers. We bought 2 fingerprint scanners (the Library is on 3 floors, so we have 2 issue point, one upstairs, one downstairs). SearchStar is networked throughout school, which is great for a large school. The IT department have been impressed at how easy the system is to use. (I think they think I know a bit about technology, ho ho).

Currently we have 1889 users enrolled on the system. At the start of each academic year we import student data from SIMS.NET to update our pupil records. Year 7s are enrolled within the first 2 weeks of term during their Library induction.

Apart from Identikit (fingerprint scanner) we use Discovery and are looking at the possibility of using Labelprint and Web Opac.

I've recommended Eclipse to lots of people and 4 local schools have visited us to see the system in action, and have since bought the system. If there is anyone else out there who would like to visit us please do, we only need to recommend the system 1 more time and we'll get lots of advantages – free Advantage Helpdesk etc with their Intro Scheme!

Issues, returns, cataloguing, overdues – they're all easy on Eclipse. As for the reports, well they're fantastic and we use them all the time to promote the Library. The 'Top 50 Most Popular' are especially helpful.

Recently we held a SLS course here called Eclipse Revisited. Dave Twist came back!! He went over the basics, gave us time-saving tips and tricks, as well as giving us information on using the features of the latest update. We also had a chance to suggest improvements, which MLS are working on all the time. Then Dave Twist left again ..... The course was over-subscribed. All who attended seem to feel the same as Margaret and I. We chose the right system!!



Kirstine Roth  
Librarian