

Rossett School Eclipse.net Case Study

Rossett School was opened in 1973 and was designed to accommodate 800 students, we now have 1398 on roll including a strong Sixth form. Over the last three years we have raised attainment through a number of strategies, we are now in the top 21% when prior attainment measures are used and the top 36% when the schools contextual value added is taken into account. We work hard with our students to ensure that all abilities are given the best chance of success. Mathematics and Computing Specialist status means that we are at the forefront of ICT developments in education and we enjoy a good working relationship with MLS, RM and other Education IT specialists.

Rossett School has 1398 pupils and we have an RM CC3 network with computers in every classroom. When I was approached by Micro Librarian Systems to BETA test their new version of Eclipse I jumped at the chance. We had successfully used Eclipse with SearchStar for a number of years and the new version Eclipse.net was the next logical progression.

Installation: As Eclipse.net is web based this could not be easier. Put the CD in the server and follow the on screen instructions. The database sits on our SQL server but it is not essential to have a dedicated server as you can install the SQL client to your existing server.

Data transfer: As you would expect, the new version can't read your old data but MLS have provided a utility to import your data into the new SQL database, it takes a little while to run (depending on the size of your library) but runs well.

I only once experienced a problem which was quickly resolved by MLS who provided a SQL script to tidy up the old database prior to transfer.

Usability: No software to install on the stations (except on the librarians station so that we can use the thumb print scanner)! Centralised updates to the software! Data backed up with the rest of the network every day.

The interface is very simple to use and has been accepted very quickly by the students. They were investigating how it worked as soon as it was installed and have already said how easy it is to use SearchStar. They particularly like the Top Ten book list which shows them what is being read by other students and have commented on the fact that they can quickly see if there are any new books available. As yet we have not set up the system that allows students to reserve books online, however; we plan to trial this in the New Year.

Web Parts: We are always trying to increase access to information stored within the school, we use a popular free VLE system to deliver a number of key courses including DiDA and GCSE ICT. MLS Web Parts will allow us to include parts of the library system within our VLE and our Intranet making research easier and hopefully having a positive impact on teaching and learning. We are looking forward to expanding the possibilities of learning through the use of Eclipse.net combined with Web Parts.



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