

Streatham and Clapham School Junior Librarian Case Study

Streatham and Clapham Junior Department is an independent girls school for ages 3 – 11 and is the main feeder school for our Senior Department. There are approximately 270 pupils including the Nursery.

When I was appointed to post in January 2004, I was all too aware of the work that needed to be done at our Junior Department. The Library basically consisted of some books in a room! The shelving was made of old dark wood and was much too high for the girls to reach the top shelves, and the room was used for storage and for the after school club. There was a very old card catalogue which was not used and books were issued via an index card system.

The main impetus for a complete library refurbishment came following an inspection report in September 2004, which summed up Library provision in two sentences –

‘Library provision is unsatisfactory. The facilities and the book stock are inadequate.’

Following a successful fundraising effort, I was given the go-ahead in May 2005 to approach companies to provide furniture, shelving and a Library Management System. Having already replaced my existing system LIMES, at the Senior site, with the Eclipse system from Micro Librarian Systems, I had no hesitation in ordering Micro Librarian Systems Junior Librarian to provide the computerised system. All the existing stock is now on the system and new stock is obviously continually being added.

The Library catalogue can be searched by the girls via their desktop on the computers in the Library. Teaching staff who operate the system for the majority of the time have no difficulties in using it, and keeping track of the books is much easier than previously.

Library helpers are very adept at issuing and returning books at lunch time and classes also book to use the Library and change their books during the school day.

The system is very schools orientated and has helped me achieve one of my aims in both the Senior and Junior Department, which is that the girls are comfortable and confident in using the Library, both for searching for information and for taking out their favourite authors.

“I have no hesitation in recommending Micro Librarian Systems products to any school who is considering purchasing a new Library Management System. Staff are always helpful, friendly and approachable.”

Sue Nichols
Streatham & Clapham High School

