

Roseberry Sports and Community College Eclipse Case Study

Roseberry Sports and Community College is an 11 – 18 school with almost 800 students. We are located in Durham and are served by ex-mining communities.

By the time I was appointed as teacher with an overview of the Learning Resource Centre in 2004, it had become nothing more than a computer room with books in it. Although it housed a wide and varied range of quality texts, students were loathe to use it or even enter it! When the computers we had in there were eventually removed in an effort to restore it to a library, it became a veritable book graveyard. In 2006, Mrs Julia Stoves was appointed as our full-time librarian and it was then we decided something had to be done.

Having spent a year trying to stock check and carry out various inventories so we had an up-to-date base from which to work, we came to the conclusion that the system we were using was serving no useful purpose. I did some personal research on the internet for library software packages to replace the LINES system we had used for sometime and which we had found to be unreliable and ineffective.

Micro Librarian appeared in my search and the more I read about the Eclipse 2 package, the more I loved the sound of it. Luckily, because the Senior Management Team appreciated the dire straits the LRC was in, they gave me carte blanche to order and implement what I wanted...virtually! As a result, I contacted Micro Librarian and they talked me through the package I had provisionally chosen and answered any questions I had. I ordered Eclipse 2 the very next day!

On 30th October 2006, Dave Twist arrived to spend the day with Julia and me, training us on how to use the package. It was one of the best training sessions I have ever been involved in! Dave worked initially with our ICT technicians to transfer the data from our LINES system to the Eclipse system. This was quick, painless and very effective. Whatever data we had logged was transferred over and in less than an hour, the active training started.

Dave showed us every element of the system and the possibilities of what we could do with it became more and more impressive. Both Julia and I were so enthused and motivated by the time Dave had finished his training, we stayed well past the end of the school day to continue logging our new books! I actually felt very jealous knowing that when I would be back in the classroom teaching, Julia would be getting to grips with our new system! Needless to say, I had several visits to see how things were progressing!



Roseberry Sports and Community College Eclipse Case Study

“Whatever data we had logged from our previous system LINES was transferred over and in less than an hour.”

The very next day we were up and running. Julia began to transfer our archaic method of categorising and identifying books to the Eclipse 2 system of barcodes for scanning. This also allowed us to enter keywords so students and staff could search for texts using SearchStar. Because we had moved to a cashless, fingerprint system for school lunch, we opted for the Identikit system to support our new software. This in itself has been a real attraction for students. We simply took groups of students to the LRC during their English lessons to register their prints and enable their accounts.

Another fantastic feature of the software is the ability to retrieve data regarding a whole variety of areas of interest: most and least popular books; “top-borrowers” by year group, sex, etc. which is ideal for whole-school rewards and reading challenges; and non-borrowers! Julia, who obviously uses the system daily, has nothing but praise for the Eclipse 2 software.

The LRC is now unrecognisable! There are queues of students at lunchtime waiting to go in to read and borrow books. Some days we simply can't fit anymore in and the “The LRC is full!” sign needs to be displayed. I believe this is all down to the new Eclipse system. It is modern and effective and the students have clearly noted this. If someone had said that a new software system could transform a library I would have laughed. Well, I am laughing now, but for all of the right reasons. We have a library which is no longer a storage room for books...it is now a readers' paradise!

“Another fantastic feature of the software is the ability to retrieve data regarding a whole variety of areas of interest: most and least popular books; “top-borrowers” by year group, sex, etc.”



Kerry Daniells
Head of English/Assistant Head Teacher