

“ Integrating the software into Frog was extremely easy ”



Case Study

The Corsham School

The Corsham School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive in Wiltshire, educating children of all abilities and received an Outstanding Ofsted report in 2009. The school gained specialist status in the visual arts in September 2003 and met the criteria for High Performing Status in 2006. The second specialism in Maths and ICT provides a dynamic complement to the school's creative learning ethos. The number on roll is currently 1400 with 270 in the sixth form.

I became the Electronic Learning Environment (ELE) Manager in September 2007 and introduced the Frog Learning Platform to the school over a period of 12 months. It has been a massive success improving communication across the school, engaging students in new technology and enabling us to achieve a 24/7 learning reality. Once ELE was up and running I decided to investigate what other opportunities there were for integrating services within the learning platform. Frog is a very flexible learning platform that can be used to host other companies' applications and all SCORM compliant software. Our existing library software was out of date and uninspiring so I always had the plan to upgrade to something more engaging. Our Librarian

had previously used Eclipse.net, in another school, and was extremely keen to upgrade our existing system.

I visited the MLS stand at BETT in 2009, for the first time, and was impressed by the versatility of the software and the way that it could be incorporated into our Learning Platform. The decision was made to purchase the software in 2010 and it couldn't have come soon enough! MLS allowed us to spread the cost of the new software over three years which also helped our budget.

Integrating the software into Frog was extremely easy, once the software was setup on the server and the address has been published. You add a Frog 'scroll frame brick' to the page and simply type in the address.

Originally we installed the non-Silverlight version which worked well but didn't have the modern look that I was after. After contacting the MLS helpdesk we upgraded to the latest version and I was extremely happy with the results. The student page has a much more modern, widget driven feel on a super glossy black background. There are all sorts of additional features with the top ten resources and new arrivals all displayed using Silverlight animation. There is even a Sliding Puzzle game that the students can interact with the cover of the Book of the Week! It makes using the library so much more fun and engaging inside the school and at home. For the first time students are able to manage their books online, write reviews, watch authors talking about their books with 'Meet the Author' and Teachers can set homework using the library software.

Charlie Parsons . *ELE Manager*



Views from other users in school

"I love the new software as you can easily check what books are overdue and see what books you have taken out."



Comments from Michelle Burns, Librarian:

"The conversion of our Alice data was very straightforward. We uploaded the file, as per Micro Librarian instructions on their web pages, at the end of the school day and emailed it to them. We received the converted file back by lunchtime the next school day, which we uploaded to the server and were ready to go with all students, loans, reservations etc working within minutes. Since having successfully used the software for several months we then proceeded to add all the set texts from the English Department and are looking into loading Media and Photography equipment, so that all items a student borrows from the school are on one database."

Quote from Teacher:

"I have used this software with my Year 7 class and they absolutely loved it. They were very keen to show me the reviews they'd written for homework and were also keen to read one another's reviews. I think that this is an excellent tool that encourages independent reading and enhances learning."

Quotes from Student Library Assistants:

"I really enjoyed using the navigation element of the software as I could make a floor plan for the library and it is easy to identify where specific books are."



Quotes from Students:

"I think 'My Books' is great and many people use the resource lots. I really like it."

"I have played the 'Sliding Game', I enjoy it but I have never been able to finish it!"

"I really like this library thing on ELE and I think it will be really useful. The bit I find most useful is when you can see when your library book is due in and if and when it is overdue!"

"I love the new software as you can easily check what books are overdue and see what books you have taken out."

"I like the fact that you can search for different books and reserve them. I find the fact that you can reserve the books really useful and also I like the reviews because you can see what other people thought of the book."

"I like how easy it is to find the book I am looking for and how it tells me where to find it in the library, which I find is really helpful as it is quite hard to find books you're looking for otherwise."

"With the new software it is much easier to navigate my way around. Cataloguing and issuing books are also so much easier."

For more information:

Telephone: + 44 (0) 161 449 9357

Email: info@microlib.co.uk . www.microlib.co.uk