

# School Library Service Newsletter

for Secondary schools

Summer 2009



Headteacher  Librarian  Staff Room

## Library makeovers to improve teaching and learning

### South Molton Community College

The Library and Learning Centre was transformed by Pam Symons, Librarian and School Library Service Adviser. A wall was removed to create the new fiction area. The counter was custom-built by a Barnstaple company to fit between two pillars. Input from the students was crucial in deciding the colour scheme and design. Comments from students include:

*"It's bright airy and open-relaxing and fashionable."* Jade & Jessica Yr11

*"It's well lit and spacious and doesn't feel crowded."* RY Yr9

*"It's fun to use for lessons, I like using a combination of books and computers - sometimes it's easier to find the information in a book."* Joe Yr7

before



studying in the new library



coordinating the new colour scheme



wavy computer benching

view of fiction area from new counter





**Old Library  
General view**



**Old Library  
Gallery**

# Newton Abbot College

## Quotes from current Y10's and Y12's:

"I love the new library. The layout looks inviting and comfortable and it's a really nice place to be. It is spacious and also a nice temperature and the furniture is really comfy. The colours make the library bright and give it a clean modern feel. I like the wide range of books that were not available before". "The new library is modern and has more computers." "The new design is more open plan." "The new library is nicer because it feels better." "The new library feels nicer and more comfortable." "The old library was horrible!" "The new library is a more open, well utilised space with easy access for reference material and an easily accessible system of management."

# KEVICC

## The Thirty-point Manifesto

A long, long time ago, when I took over as Learning Resources Centre Manager / College Librarian at King Edward VI Community College (a long, long job title as well), one of my first decisions was to combine two libraries into one. It was the single most unpopular thing I ever did as a Librarian. Staff and students on the site housing the smaller of the two libraries saw it as 'closing the library'. All my reassurances: offers of classroom loans and topic boxes, counted for little. My colleagues thought the move was driven by economics – just another cut-back. It's true that I felt three libraries, five staff and 30,000 stock was a little over the top for a rural community college but I really wanted to create a central, vibrant and well-resourced library.

That summer I moved everything from our lower site to the main one. I did it personally: filling boxes, loading my camper van, driving across the road, off-loading, returning for shelving and furniture. It only took three weeks. By the start of the Autumn term I had gathered everything together and more or less bunged it in the library - I was also over-worked, crook-backed and slightly out of my mind. I needed help.

I needed good advice. I needed a proper librarian. I needed someone of boundless energy. Most importantly, I needed a merciless culler of sad old books. I needed Jo Hyde.

In October 2004, Jo made her Advisory Support Visit to KEVICC. She spent three or four hours observing and note taking. We discussed the appearance of the library, its stock and furniture, its budget, staffing, promotion, evaluation and future. We even talked about the flow of students through the library and how that movement influenced the position of displays and notices.

Later that month, Jo's very thorough report arrived. It ran to seven pages and more than 2,000 words. It contained the now legendary Thirty Point Plan. These ranged from structural alterations to weeding out books. In the following four years, I managed to tick off about twenty of them. When I mentioned this to Jo last year, she pointed out the word Advisory in the report, saying nothing was Mandatory. What a relief (only joking). This year I'm down to five.

Jo's help was invaluable, the report became a permanent reference for us and the Thirty Point Plan a well thumbed guide. We owe so much, not only to Jo Hyde but the whole team at DSLS. Thank you.

Paddy Reardon, KEVICC Librarian



**New Library  
General View**



**Year 7 Core Skills  
class doing research  
upstairs**

# Braunton Community College

Placing two sofas at the front of the library has really opened it up to create a spacious and relaxed reading area.



**Before -  
view from desk**



**After -  
view from desk**

# Sidmouth Community College

The dual use LRC/Community library has been revamped as space was created when the public library moved out. There is new benching for the computers that now matches the custom built counter.



**Benching at Sidmouth to match counter**



**Paignton Community College and Sports College counter**

# Paignton Community and Sports College

Borough Road Site LRC

## Appropriate to our needs

My story began in 1997 as a library assistant to Year 9, 10 and 11, employed at a split site school in a dingy room. I made the most of our accommodation, removing bag racks and embracing the new technology, i.e. a few computers, but had to rely enormously on the ambience I hope I created, as most of us do. So when the College changed sites in 2003. I grabbed the chance to move to our other centre which has a purpose built library and was currently used by Year 7, 8 and our 6th form. It was a big move involving swapping all our book stock, but with the able help and expert knowledge of our School Library Services we got to grips and accomplished the task.

The next few months were spent observing users needs, rethinking design and endlessly moving shelving, desks and library furniture. There was no budget to spare but I came to realise that I could make a vast difference just by moving the library desk for example. Sounds easy I know but a huge job involving caretakers, electricians, ICT and a lot of enthusiasm from us.

The results have paid dividends in terms of a more welcoming environment: my desk faces the door so I am always able to greet my customers as they arrive. There are no hidden pockets of floor space as a result of re-organising the shelving. The team from SLS provided inspiration on many occasions. The library is a popular place and considered a 'safe haven' by staff and students alike, it is also a heavily used working space that is fit for purpose for a KS4/5 school library.

**Cassie Ferrara,**

Library Manager, Paignton Community & Sports College

## Carnegie Shadowing

Shadowing the Carnegie Award 2009 at Holsworthy Community College



## Topic collections

Please email or send in your topic requests as soon as possible before the end of term. SLS can accept requests for the whole year ahead. Exeter and Barnstaple Centres will be collecting topics from schools from July 1st, so that stock can be computerised and topics catalogued before being sent out in September 2009. Topics can be renewed if you want to keep them longer.

## Reviews

JENSEN, Marie-Louise **The Lady in the Tower**

Set in the Tudor period Eleanor is the feisty fifteen year old heroine who sets out to rescue her mother who is imprisoned in the tower having been falsely accused of witchcraft by her father. This is a stirring adventure story full of period detail and intertwined with some romance as Eleonor finds true love in the end. KS3/4

**Dark Alchemy - Magical Tales from Masters of Modern Fantasy**

A collection of short original stories by top fantasy writers including Neil Gaiman, Garth Nix, Tanith Lee and Eoin Colfer. The tales focus on wizards and magic and are set in this world and others worlds plus heaven and hell! Great for fans of the fantasy genre who require a "quick read". KS4

## Recommended websites

**The Dewey Decimal rap** – watch and listen it is good fun and your student librarians will probably enjoy it too: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHiUQb5xg7A&utm\\_source=MailingList&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=psheldon%40peters-books.co.uk&utm\\_campaign=nfl-may09](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHiUQb5xg7A&utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_content=psheldon%40peters-books.co.uk&utm_campaign=nfl-may09)

**www.247tales.com** the brand new online writing competition that challenges you to write short stories using 247 words or fewer. One winner will be chosen each month and they will receive £75 worth of Bloomsbury books and have their 247tale featured on this website.

## Devon Learning and Development Partnership (LDP)

You may have noticed the new logo on the front page, to show that School Library Service is now part of the Devon Learning and Development Partnership (LDP) which was formed in April 2009 and brings together eleven Devon County Council services. The purpose of LDP is to work with others to improve outcomes for young people. **LDP comprises:** Devon Discovery, Devon Education Services (including Governor Support), Devon Learning Resources, Devon Music Service, Educational Psychology Service, Education Welfare Service, English as an Additional Language Service, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement, Inclusion Reintegration and Education other than at School, School Library Service, Support and Advisory Teacher Service.

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