

# St. David's Holy Faith School Library



## Quarterly Update

**October 2023**

**Librarian: Mairéad Duggan**

### **Library Management Software**

We elected to go with local company *Interleaf Technology* as supporting local business as much as is possible and practical will be part of the library policy. The availability of local support and training are also advantageous to the school library.

Interleaf Technology as a company are based in Bray and most of their staff live in Greystones. The member of staff who installed the system and delivered the training is a relative of one of our students, so it was a very positive interaction for all.

The Scooter2 School Library Automation Platform is designed to use Open Source software (Koha) and a range of other services to provide an automation system through which the library can manage its physical resources. This system is available to any school in Ireland and can also be used in the future for the Book Rental Scheme if such a scheme is ever implemented in the school.

A key design of this system is that the school will have their own database of catalogue records, borrower records and transactions. There is

access to a high-quality, professionally produced, database of catalogue records to import from. Scooter2 will only be available as a hosted offering in a data centre with access through a secure link. It is the same technology as banks use for Internet transactions, so it is secure. It removes any responsibility from the school for supplying and managing servers to run the library system. The system will include a cataloguing module and a circulation module and a Public Access Catalogue along with facilities to generate statistical reports and overdues.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, the system was installed and a refresher course on the operation of the system was delivered to the librarian.

### **Statistics**

As no borrowers are loaded yet and cataloguing has just commenced no borrowing statistics are available as yet. We have been using a borrower record sheet to record borrowing to date – so 25 items have been borrowed across a range of classes and years and over 100 items have been borrowed for in-class usage.

### **Cataloguing Status**

Due to the fantastic work ethic of a small group of library assistants all the Junior and Senior Fiction Collections as well as most of the English Section have had barcodes and laminates added. Cataloguing has commenced and Junior Fiction A – H has all been catalogued to date.

### **Professional Development**

The librarian attended the annual Children's Books Ireland Conference in the Lighthouse Cinema on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.



This year's conference theme, 'Risk and Reward', asked attendees and speakers to reflect on occasions where they took risks; both in their work and career development. International artists such as wife and husband team Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Tom de Freston (*Julia and the Shark, Leila and the Blue*

Fox), authors Katherine Rundell (*Impossible Creatures, The Explorer, Rooftoppers*), Ross Montgomery (*Spellstone, Sheep School, Fortune's Fools*) and Manjeet Mann (*The Crossing, Run, Rebel*) were all part of the line-up.

This is an excellent annual opportunity for networking and to gain knowledge of the latest developments in Irish and International Children's Literature. I have ordered a selection of books from speakers at the conference and a class set of 'Impossible Creatures' by Katherine Rundell which is not only a hugely entertaining read but gives us so much scope to run creative writing classes, and creative competitions in various departments. Contacts were also made with various departments in Children's Books Ireland and the Education Officer in Poetry Ireland. Many thanks to the school for funding this attendance.

The librarian is also attending a **Film Course on Special Effects in BIFE** – part-time night course weekly

## Collection Development

The Politics Department, the French Department, the Spanish Department and the Irish Department have all made requests for collection development. The books have all been ordered from various suppliers around the country.

Also, thanks to the Science Department for recommending several titles and magazine/journal subscriptions have been sourced accordingly. DLT Magazines are a UK based subscription company who source journals and magazines at a highly reduced rate when purchased on an annual subscription basis. We purchased a package of 12 titles on various subjects which will be delivered monthly. This subscription is flexible which gives us the ability to change the titles for alternates if certain journals are not being used.

Through a friend of Ms. O'Sullivan (Deputy Principal) a number of items were donated to the library. This includes a number of fiction titles, books cataloging new writing and primarily a number of historical titles that may be used in the future for Leaving Certificate History Projects. Ms. O'Sullivan also donated many useful titles for this purpose. We will display as many titles as possible on the shelves and establish a research centre in one of the storerooms where a subject topic boxes will be available for History students.

## **Signage**

Our library signs arrived from Sign Solutions in Arklow just in time for Open Night on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. These black and white signs in Irish and English identify the different sections of the library. We have covered most sections with our signage but may need to include a few more categories as our collections grow.

## **Library Timetable**

The timetable is flexible and ever evolving. There are quite a few TY classes set in for weekly time slots for various activities. There are some slots also set aside for research activities particularly for the senior history students who are researching specialist topics.

TY students are also involved in creative arts programmes as well as reading for pleasure and literacy activities.

As soon as the fiction section is catalogued and the students are loaded up on the Library Management System, then I would like to begin to invite First Year and Second Year Teachers to book a monthly slot for borrowing and returning. Teachers will also be invited in for Creative Arts Programmes and Projects.

## **Creative Arts Programme**

The library is running a Film Club after school on Wednesdays and a Creative Writing club at lunchtimes on Friday. There is active engaged student interest in both. There was limited interest in a Book Club offered on Monday after school but I hope as students become more familiar with the library and its offerings that will change. Ms. Kane is offering a Senior Book Club on Thursday and the library will support that in any way possible. The junior students will now have the option of going to book club on Thursday afternoons with Ms. Kane who has very generously offered to expand its scope.

In Film Club, the students have watched a number of short films for inspiration. They also all hope to make or participate in making a short film of their own. Helen Flanagan, Film artist and our Creative Schools Associate is interested in helping us to make these shorts over the course of the year.

Students are now in the Pre-production phase and are working away on their scripts, shot lists and props lists in anticipation. It would be great to try to purchase some equipment (camera, iPad, microphone) with the Creative Schools funding.

In Creative Writing Club, the students have already worked on their 6 Word Short Stories and 6 Word Memoirs. They are looking at picturebooks this week and the possibility of writing a short poem to be turned into a picturebook. We also have a few members interested in Children's Book Illustration.

### **Research Services**

As our school library budget is limited, I have built up some connections with the local public library so that our students can avail of all the free services offered by the public library. Catherine Costello, the librarian in Greystones public library has emailed me some registration forms for our students to join the library and some information on all the services they provide. This includes the Borrowbox App which they can download for free and a range of research services. She has also given me a teacher library card which means that we can borrow items for a longer period of time. Some of the senior history students have begun to avail of the services for their special history projects. One student has been able to order a number of academic items which has been immensely cost effective for us. We have had a number of information sessions on these research services with various classes and students.

### **Special Events**

Our Creative Schools Meeting with our Creative Associate took place in the library on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Students used the Chromebooks to create a digital noticeboard of their artistic ideas. Film and Mural art featured strongly in the student discussion.

### **Library Assistants**

A strong team of library assistants have volunteered themselves to work in the library at lunchtimes and breaktimes. There are a group from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year and another group from 2<sup>nd</sup> Year. They are currently classifying books into various sections and working on barcoding and laminating barcodes on every book in the library. Some of them have even started the scanning and

cataloguing under the librarian's supervision. They have commandeered the Recommended Reads Section and the Library Noticeboard as areas of interest for students.

These are the students I believe that will form the library council when we are ready to do so. That will happen in the next school term when more students from each year have become familiar with the school library.

### **SSE and planning for the Library**

The next phase of library development heading into next term is the development of a school library policy and a library council. I would like to establish the library council first in order to inform the policy and allow it to be student led.

Cataloguing will continue and will continue to be a feature of the daily work of the library for this academic year. Once the fiction and history sections are catalogued, then we will begin uploading student data as these are the primary collections which will be borrowed. Other items can be catalogued as we go along.

Creative Arts Programmes will be continued and expanded. Hopefully with the purchase of additional equipment, camera and microphone we can move into the production phase of our Film Club. Our Creative Associate who is also a film artist, has agreed to help us to reach post-production and distribution stages. We will also be working on a school wide documentary on school life, particularly behind the scenes in the Musical and in the Sports Arena.

Co-ordination with the TY Leaders to organize community outreach programmes with Montessori and Primary Schools to begin next term.

### **Student Quotes /Requests/ Comments**

The library assistant group are really anxious for the library to be available at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays too. They have volunteered to supervise and requested if any member of staff would be available to supervise to facilitate this?

## Appendix A

### Samples of Student Work/Student Quotes

#### Samples of Work from the Creative Writing Club

##### Our Six Word Short Story Project

Legend has it that Ernest Hemmingway won a bet by writing a short story in 6 words. Based on Hemmingway's famous *6 Word Short Story*, (For Sale: Baby Shoes, Never Worn) our creative writing group came up with some brilliant 6 Word Stories of their own: here is just a small sample. They also wrote some 6 Word Memoirs.

**Everything will end. All in time.** - 1<sup>st</sup> Year

**It was me. I did it.** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

**And Words Spilt From Her Fingertips.** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

#### Transition Years with Ms. Foynes

##### Visual brainstorming for Picture books in French





**The class are working on short poems/stories to turn into picturebooks and translate into French.**

**An extract from *Nursery Rhyme Crime* –**

**Short Film Script produced by one of the First Years**

**INT: Crime scene: day**

**Narrator:** The story I'm about to tell you is an iconic one that has been passed down for many generations, you may not have heard of it before, but I welcome you to a re-enactment of the infamous tale of the Peter Squeaks case in this movie, titled "Nursery Rhyme Crime".

(The narrator speaks as the scene opens on a television in a room. The camera moves into the television screen)



**News Reporter:** In today's news. The Easter bunny is facing allegations of hoarding and mistreating the rare chocolate egg laying chicken species. We'll be back with more information next week. In other news! A citizen has been paralysed after being pushed off the top of a grandfather clock!

(The scene cuts to the crime scene, people are taking photos of the crime scene which is sectioned off with police tape, detective Kevin walks in.)

**Terry:** Ah, detective Kevin, right on time!

**Kevin:** Alright Terry, fill me in, what's happened?

**Terry:** Well detective Kevin, yesterday, a mouse by the name of Peter Squeaks was rushed to the hospital after taking a considerable fall from a clock.

**Kevin:** It's a grandfather clock Terry.

**Terry:** Yeah, I know. The case has been getting some serious media attention at the moment and people want answers, people have even taken to singing a nursery rhyme about the ordeal. They think that the mouse ran up the clock and the clock struck one.

**Kevin:** So, he fell?

**Terry:** Yes, but we aren't certain why he was trying to run up the clock, perhaps he was being chased?

**Kevin:** Maybe so.

**Terry:** Eye-witness reports claim that there may have been another person present at the time.

**Kevin:** Perhaps we should ask Peter about this?

**Terry:** We can't detective; he was paralysed from the fall.

**Kevin:** Drat! Well then maybe we should go ask around the neighbourhood.

**Terry:** Good thinking detective.

(The actors leave the scene, it transitions to Mary with her lamb)