



JCSP
Demonstration
Library
Project

Some voices from the JCSP libraries

Teachers/School Management

It is the soul of our learning and our adventure into enlightenment, confidence and discovery.

It creates a focal learning space in the school.

The proof of the library's attraction has to be the need to ask pupils to leave late in the evening so that I can lock up.

The library has been of immense value to the school community from an academic and social point of view.

They provide a context for learning beyond the classroom.

The paired reading schemes, the inclusion of all, the improvement of literacy and numeracy, the encouragement to read and the impetus to provide relevant and stimulating materials, the study-skills workshops, the visiting writers and speakers, the IT resources, the advice and the subject support...

The library captures their imagination through a student-centred approach...They associate the place with positivity, creativity and productivity.

These students will leave school with a natural affection for books and reading. Years from now, we shall find them in bookshops browsing bestsellers, we shall find them in third level institutions navigating sterner stuff, we shall find them scanning their memories, nostalgic for the days spent in the library but ultimately indebted to the librarian who enables them to become architects of their own lives.

For value for money the library has been the best use of space in the school in my thirty-three years here.

In view of the new Junior Cycle and its proposed project and modular nature the library and the librarian are what will make the difference to our school and to all DEIS schools.



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The library is the heart of our school. Absolutely everything revolves around the library whether it is academic, celebratory or social.

The library is the heartbeat of our school. It is a multi-use space that is a haven for students and teachers. The library facilitates learning on so many levels from paired reading to resource reading, presentations, artistic projects, multi-media demonstrations and homework club.

We have had library facilities going back years but the fact it has been staffed by a librarian has made it a living resource to the community.

A student's literacy ability is central to their academic performance and the librarian is an equal partner in the school when it comes to improving the literacy rate of students. As a school resource the library is unequalled...I believe that the library is invaluable to the school as both a place for students and teachers to pursue their aims and as a depository for their achievements.

The day they all stood solemnly on our 'step' in the library reciting their poem, some with gentle prompting and some without, the pride and the seriousness of the occasion for them. Such tough boys on the outside, some of them, and how they were revisited by being children again through this exercise. And how chuffed they were when we clapped.

The library has become the nerve-centre of our school. Students form a queue outside the door of the library long before opening times. This is marvellous to see – the enthusiasm of students for the library and its facilities. Some of these students would do anything to 'escape' class yet they cannot wait to get into the library.

The best initiative in twenty years of initiatives

"The power of storytelling always surprises me: watching those 'tough' kids come and sit in front of a story teller with stony faces which over 30mins disappears: they forget the act and just enjoy themselves."

JCSP School Librarian



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Students

"I was really looking forward to coming back. I love the library so much and missed it so much during the holidays. Did you miss us?"

2nd year student who is a regular library user

"OMG. They have Justin Bieber books an' all. Really, I swear. This [The Library} is just lovely!"

1st Year JCSP student

'It's great coming in here and doing my homework, then I can do what I like when I get home and I don't have to worry about any of it until the next day'

1st year student's response to the Homework Club

"There's so much choice. I don't know which book to pick."

A first year blinded by the fabulous choice of fiction available to him in the library, something he is not at all used to, but will be quite soon.

"It's pictures in your head. I can see what he says."

Reaction to Niall du Burca (Storyteller)

"The library is the best thing that ever happened to the school. If we didn't have a library it would be like the school was dead inside".

2nd year essay on what having a library means.

"I've a screwdriver, measuring tape and pliers on it, and me library card in my back pocket, sure what else would you want."

First year JCSP student showing another student his key ring penknife

"I love this making books stuff it makes me like books more"

1st year about getting involved in Make-a-Book



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"I was talking to my friend on Facebook last night and he asked me where I had been. I said I had been in our library after school and he called me a geek. I replied to him that he hadn't seen our library."

1st Year in the library after school.

"This school has gone from a 1 to a 7!"

Senior cycle student giving his verdict on the first book club

"You don't have to decorate a school for Halloween. It's already a scary place. But you have to decorate the library. It's not a scary place." "No, it's like a holy place!"

Two students discussing the decorations in the library and round the school at lunch time in the library.

"My Ma bought me all the Diary of a Wimpy Kids for Christmas, I never would have got books before I came to this school."

1st year boy

Parents

"Library is like a sanctuary for him"

Parent speaking about his son

"This library is amazing, look at all the great books. It was never like that when I was in school."

Parent at JCSP Information Session

'My son's in 5th year and this library was the best thing ever happened him in school'

A parent at the open evening telling other parents of her experiences of the library

'Only for the librarian he'd never have gotten a B in honours maths'

Parent.

"I've actually had to put a set of shelves up in me bedroom I've that many books now"

A parent who has attended the Parent's Book Club for a year