

Farmor's School Library Development Jan - May 2024

Reorganisation of Library Stock

The first task started was switching the Library shelves from a Dewey decimal system, organised in alphabetical order by Author surname, into sectioning the shelves by genre.

When observing students navigating the Library with the previous system, it was clear that the system worked well if students knew what they were looking for. However, most students found it difficult to find books matching their interests.

Student feedback told us that with limited time to browse during break and lunch, the choices were overwhelming, and students ran out of time before finding something they liked.

Genre organisation has been reinforced with matching colour coded stickers used on both book spines and shelf section title. This has improved accessibility for both Library borrowers and Student Librarians due to the ease of locating and returning books.

Weekly Library Newsletter



Our new weekly Library Newsletter shares all the exciting changes we've made in recent weeks. As well as upcoming events, it promotes why students should read and make use of the Library. A permanent feature on the newsletter is our 'Top Borrower of the Month' ranking chart where students can see how many books they've borrowed. At the end of the month, we announce the Top Borrower who is awarded a certificate and commemorative pin badge. This feature has created an exciting and healthy competition amongst students and has increased usage in students that are regular Library users.

[Library Newsletter 23.02.24.pdf](#)

[Library Newsletter 26.04.24.pdf](#)

Introducing new Library Management System

Prior to my starting at Farmor's, Claire Wells negotiated a new Library Management System called 'Oliver' which has a student facing Library Website. [News - Farmors School - Oliver \(oliverasp.co.uk\)](https://www.oliverasp.co.uk) This has transformed the way students are able to engage with the Library and is a vast improvement on our previous system.

Our new system allows students to:

- Browse our books at home
- Write reviews of the books they read which are uploaded onto Oliver and card copies used in the Library (like in Waterstones!)
- Reserve books and collect them the next day or be added to a waiting list
- Access further relevant resources and further reading across all subject areas in our Study Hub.

This new system makes it easier for students to find books they are interested in. It has innovative AI features which make custom recommendations to each borrower. The biggest impact this has had on the school so far is Students who previously hadn't made use of the Library using the click & collect style service to borrow books, meaning we can benefit and reach a wider demographic of students.

Librarian Led Workshops

[Dream up a gaming world Freddie Hartshorn 9TN.pdf](#)

When the calendar is quieter, I've been taking advantage of this time to host smaller workshops over lunch breaks. We recently held a 'build a gaming world' workshop for National Story Telling Week. Students dreamt up a gaming world and designed characters and a storyline and were guided through a real-life design and pitch process based on the gaming industry. Students were then also supported to submit their designs to the BAFTA young game designer awards.

Carnegie Book Awards

We have also been shadowing the Carnegie Book Awards. Students read the shortlist of nominated books and meet weekly to discuss them. We'll be screening the final awards ceremony with popcorn!

World Book Day



World Book Day was a big celebration in the Library. Students helped decorate the Library and bake cakes. I worked with WHSmiths in Cirencester who were able to provide us with hundreds of free WBD books. This allowed students to visit the Library collect a free book and cake. By providing the books on site it removes a barrier to reading for students who don't have access to a bookshop or forget to use their voucher before the deadline.

Author Events

In collaboration with the Gloucestershire Year of Reading initiative, the Library hosted a Poetry Slam workshop with Spoz. This workshop was an accessible and engaging way for students to improve their literacy. The workshop had a limited capacity (50 students) so was targeted at the middle to lower attaining students in years 7 and 8 using results from STAR reading assessments.

We also held a live webinar event with the author Malorie Blackman. Some of our students asked excellent questions about diversity and representing race issues in literature.

Library celebrations

The Library now has a regular calendar of celebrations. We started the year with Burn's Nights, hosted a birthday party for Shakespeare (460 years since his birth date) with 'Pin the Tale on the Bard', poetry readings, a 'Which William?' quote quiz and cake. Followed by May the 4th (be with you) celebrations in which we celebrated Sci-Fi as a genre and Mr Evans joined us wearing his Star Wars T-shirt. Sixth formers and staff read their favourite pieces of sci-fi literature and students ran and took part in a 'Yoda or Shakespeare' quote quiz. These celebrations have been a great way of bringing students into the Library that would not ordinarily visit. They have become so popular that we now need to ticket them.

Social Media

With so many fantastic events and initiatives happening, I've begun sharing Library updates on Farmor's Facebook page. We've already had positive feedback from parents, and it is a brilliant way of strengthening the school community between parents and school.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076334703357>

Subject Satellite Libraries

Now the main Library collection has been catalogued and is in regular circulation. We have begun creating and cataloguing the subject area Satellite Libraries. These are mini-Library collections based in each classroom that contain relevant subject texts. Students will have the same level of access to these texts through the Library website. However, it means these books can be used and referenced during lessons and study periods whilst creating valuable space for promoting reading for pleasure in the main Library. There is also a Professional Development Satellite Library for staff.

Sponsored Readathon



Another exciting event starting shortly is our next Sponsored Readathon, which is also in collaboration with the Year of Reading and primary schools across Gloucestershire. Students will be invited to take part in a reading photo challenge. Not only is it an engaging, fun activity for students to take part in, it raises money for the charity Read For Good. The money raised provides books for children in hospital and we get 20% of the money to buy books. Read for Good have also kindly organised a free author event with Christopher Edge.

Fundraising

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve and develop the Library we have raised £600 from parents for the purchase of new books. Keeping stock fresh and relevant is vital for increasing Library usage and reading across the school. This has been popular with families who are moving on from their time at Farmor's. Because it takes a community to build a Library we have invited donors to share their names in the books we buy or their favourite quotes from books they love.



Kindly donated by

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"GIVE THE GIFT OF READING"



THANK YOU

