

The College Library.

The library was built as part of the extension in 2005. In 2007 we welcomed Fiona Spelman as our librarian. Fiona had worked in education previously and is qualified in Childcare and Information Management. Her aim was to make our library a vibrant area for reading and research for all students and staff.

We began with an empty library. Our plan was to fill the shelves with attractive, educational books. With just under 100 books the library was formally opened by the famous Dublin-born author and poet Dermot Bolger. It was a lovely evening of poetry and literature enjoyed by staff, students, local librarians and friends of the College.

Today the library has over 1,000 fiction books, reference books, DVD's, videos, journals and magazines. There are seven computers and the once bare walls are filled with posters, photographs and memorabilia.

Fiction

All fiction books are shelved in alphabetical order by author surname. There are fiction books to suit all students;

- Action
- Humour
- Classics
- Fantasy
- Graphic novels
- Romance
- Historical fiction

Non-fiction

Non-fiction books are by subject using the Dewey Decimal Classification system. This system is made up of 10 categories and covers all the academic subjects and much more. All of these books are of great benefit to the students' studies and research.

The Library Day

The Library is open every day from 9.40 to 2.00. Students are brought to the library for class visits by their teachers for reading, media studies, novel study, research, project work and study. Many English classes come to the library on a regular weekly basis.

Students are welcome to use the library at lunchtime. It is a safe, warm, quiet room where they can read for pleasure, study, log on to a computer or play chess or other board game.

The students and staff always enjoy reading the daily papers:

- Irish Times
- Irish Independent
- Fingal Independent
- Skerries News.

Students are allowed to borrow books and DVD's to bring them home.

Quiz time

Every 3 weeks the library runs a fun Table Quiz. There are always many teams of 3 students to answer a range of questions. There are prizes for the winning teams.

There are also Irish, French and Spanish quizzes during the year.

Book Club

Every 4 weeks the Book Club meets. All students are welcome to join this group of avid readers who meet to review the book of the month. It is always an enjoyable meeting. The book club is a great way to encourage reading and give the students the ability and confidence to discuss a book critically.

Book Fair

Every December the library hosts a book fair where students and staff are welcome to view the selection of books on sale. The library gains 50% of the sales which is used to buy new books for the library.

Writers Club

Students meet to share their stories and writing ideas. The author Oisín McGann has given a writing workshop to the students which was very beneficial.

Chess Club

The chess club has many members. They play every day during lunchtime. The library runs a chess tournament every spring and autumn which is very popular. There are prizes for the tournament winners.

Other activities

Whenever the College is holding an event the library helps out with photograph displays. The library also has displays for different occasions during the year:

- Valentine's Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter
- Halloween
- Christmas

Author Visits

The library hosts two visits by authors during the year. The first occasion is to celebrate "October Book Festival" and the second to celebrate "World Book Day". The visits are a wonderful opportunity for the students to meet an author. They listen with enthusiasm and learn so much about the love of reading and writing.

Authors who have visited us include:

- Dermot Bolger
- Sarah Webb
- Conor Kostick
- Laura Jane Cassidy
- Oisín McGann (Many times)
- Aubrey Flegg

The October Book Festival

October is very busy and exciting month for the library. The month-long series of events includes:

- National Poetry Day
- Improv Drama
- French Lunchtime
- Spanish Lunchtime
- Irish Lunchtime
- Traditional music performances
- Classical Music performances
- Friendship Week
- DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) This a special day when the Principal calls all classes to a stop so the students can read for a period of time.

As you can see the library is the perfect place to develop language skills, develop research skills, and foster a love of reading. There is always a warm welcome in our library.