

Enhancing spaces in our Learning Resources Centres (LRCs) to benefit the student experience

Gemma Downing & Rory Geraghty

College Lane



Our initiative

Extends across our
main campuses

Guided by student feedback

Use of suggestion boards, online
forms, and informal tea & coffee
mornings

New enhancements include a
multi-faith prayer space

De Havilland



Teaching Experience Room

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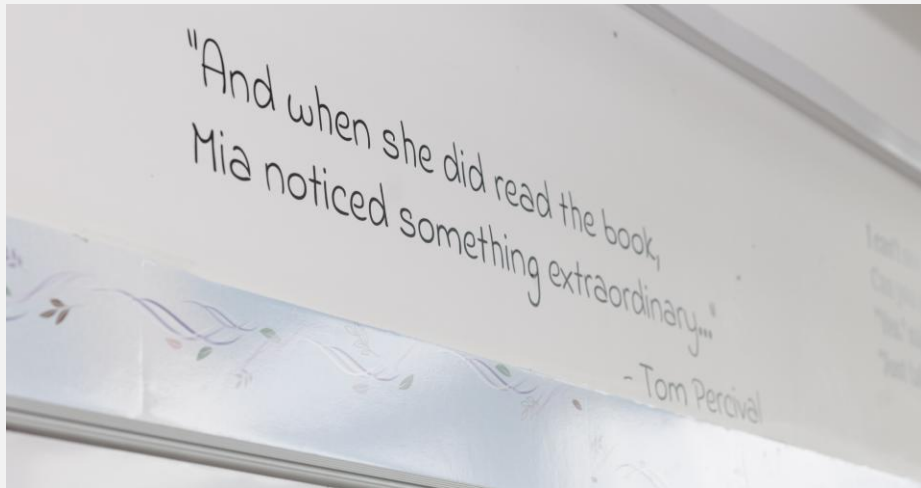
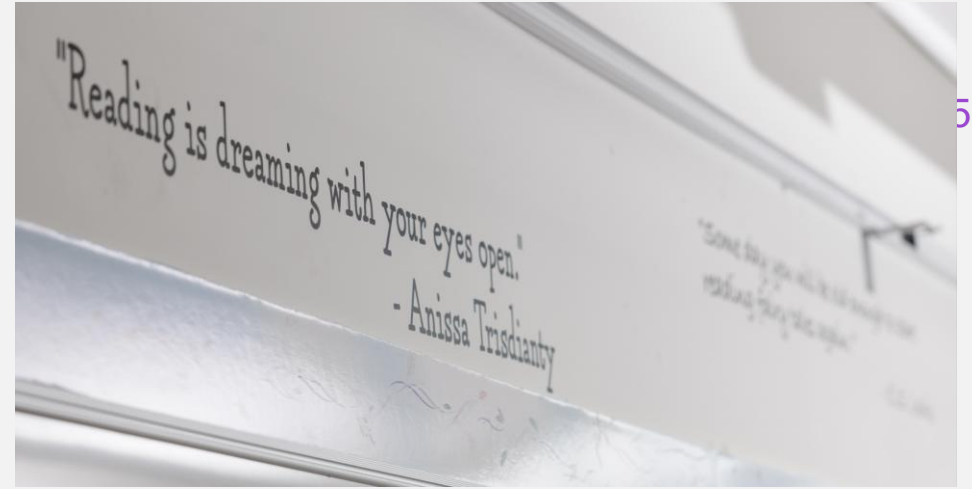


- Collaboration with the School of Education.
- Repurposed an unused room to replicate a children's library.
- Houses resources to be used during placements.
- Practical environment for students to apply learnings.

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- Teaching
Experience
Collection





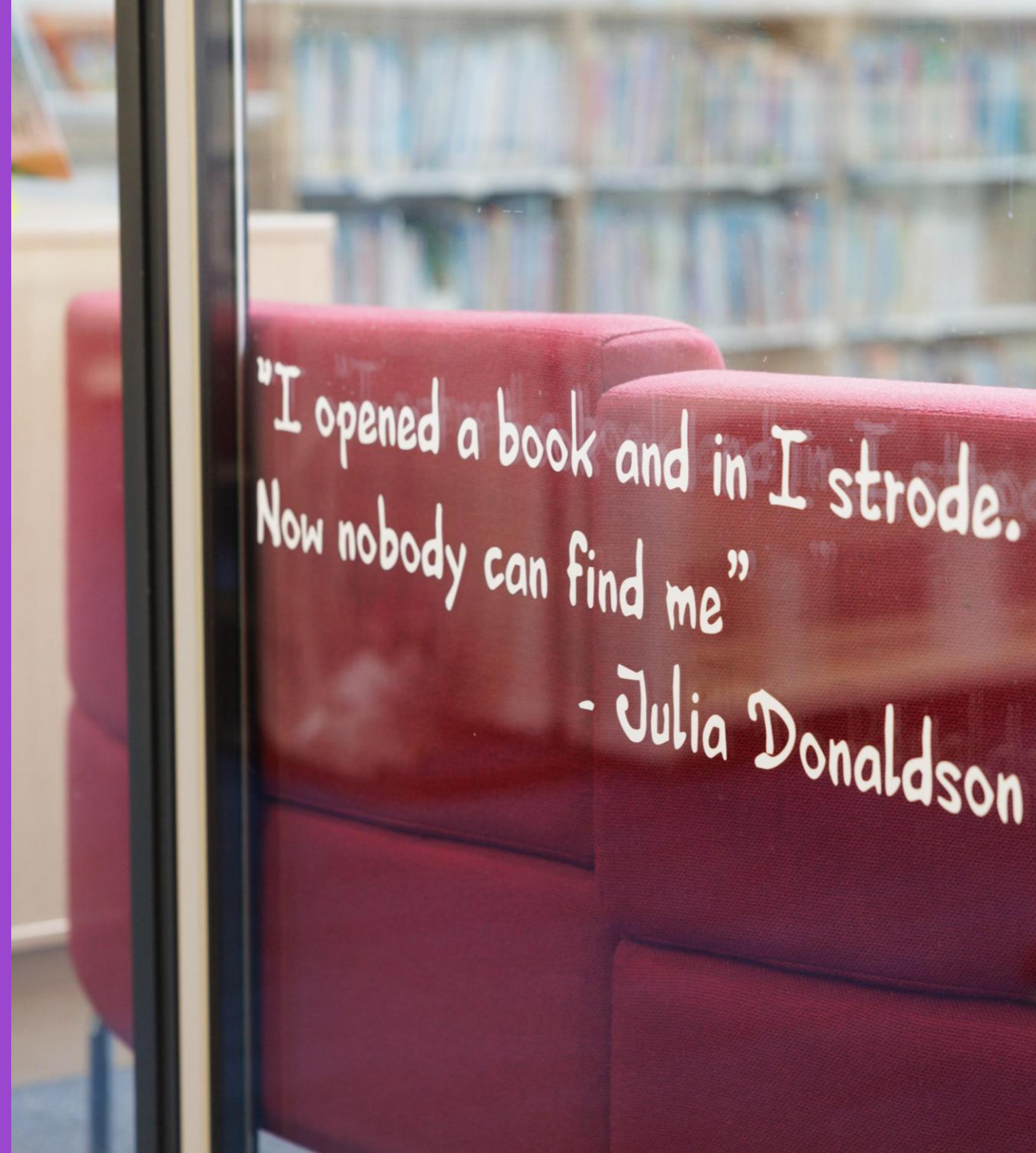
Expanding the Teaching Experience Collection

Relocation to College Lane campus

Students continue to add feedback through suggestion forms

Student-staff partnership remains crucial for new room

Discussions with academic leads about classes of children using the space



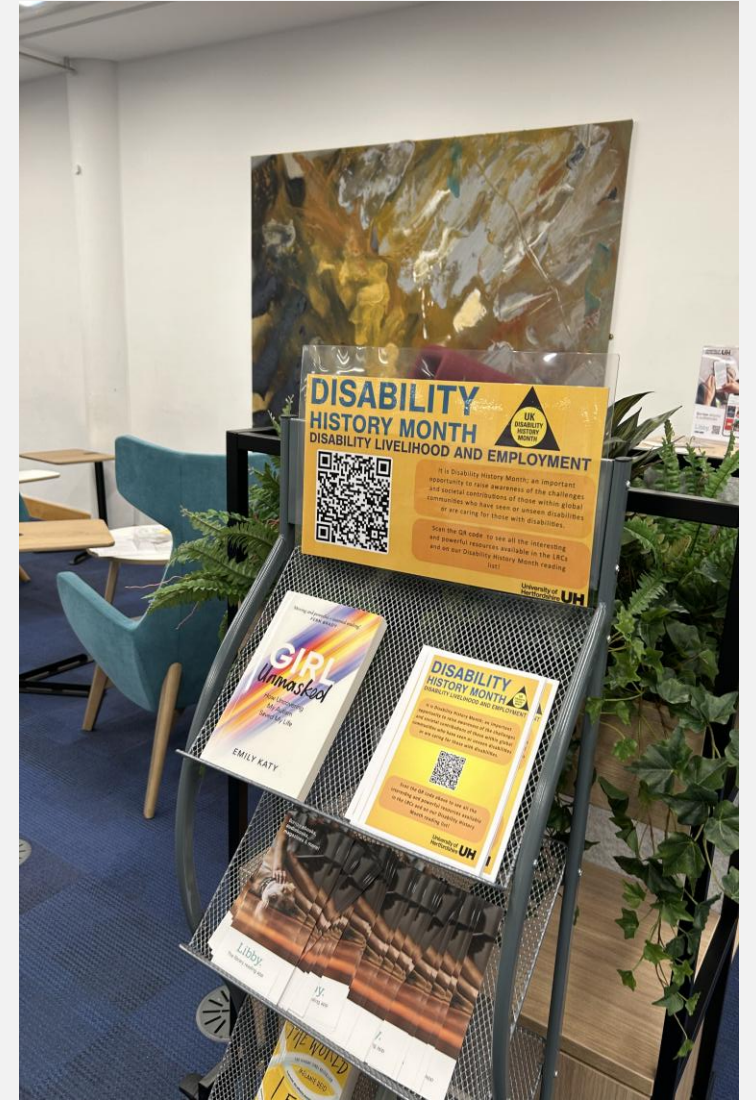
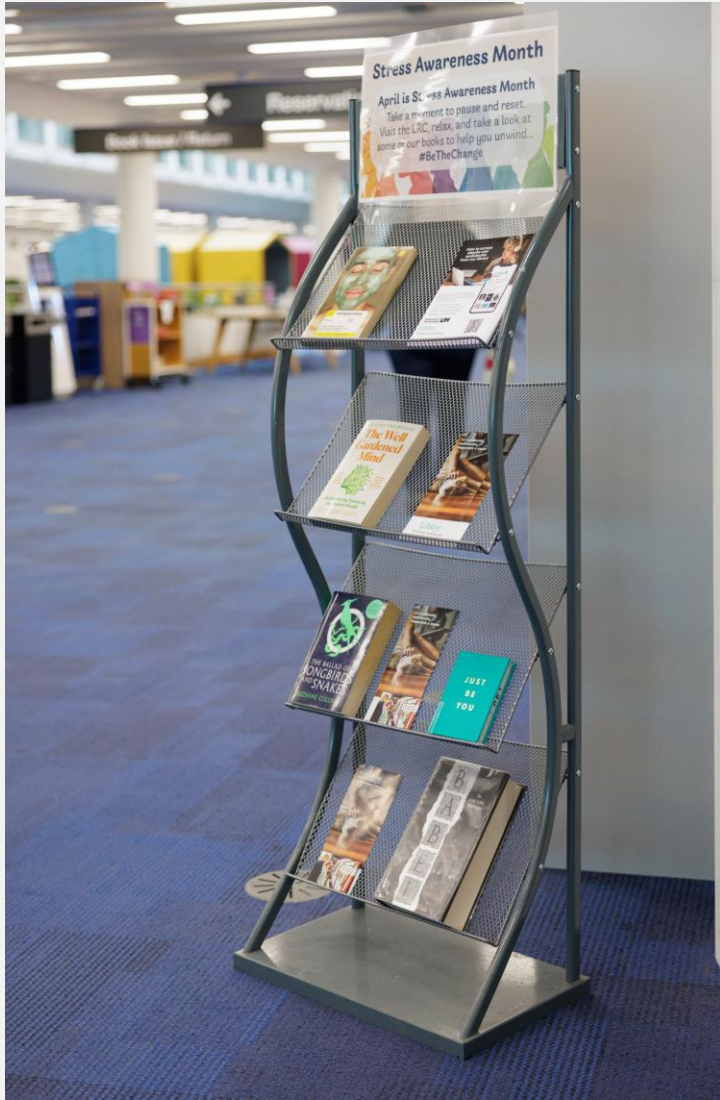
Reading for Pleasure Area

Created in early 2024.

Contains a selection of fiction and non-fiction books.

Progressed to facilitate wellbeing workshops and events.







Author Jon Berry giving a talk on his new book "Who killed Oswald Grey?"

Jon's presentation was great!
Really engaging.

Can we have e-gaming events in the library too!

I want to do more art events, like drawing, as well as crafting!



Colourful butterfly display for LGBT History Month



Recycled paper crafting for Go Green Week



Flower making session for International Women's Day

Pet therapy – a success story

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Campus	Dog(s) name	Session attendance	% of attendees from population in LRC
College Lane	Emily	70	12%
de Havilland	Pippa /Louis	46	13%
College Lane	Eska	34	5%
College Lane	Emily	54	13.5%
de Havilland	Pippa / Louis	30	7.5%
College Lane	Emily	35	13%
College Lane	Emily and Poppy	40	12.5%
College Lane	Emily and Poppy	40	8%
de Havilland	Pippa / Louis	32	12%



Regular pet therapy sessions now hosted in this space.

Data shows positive uptake.

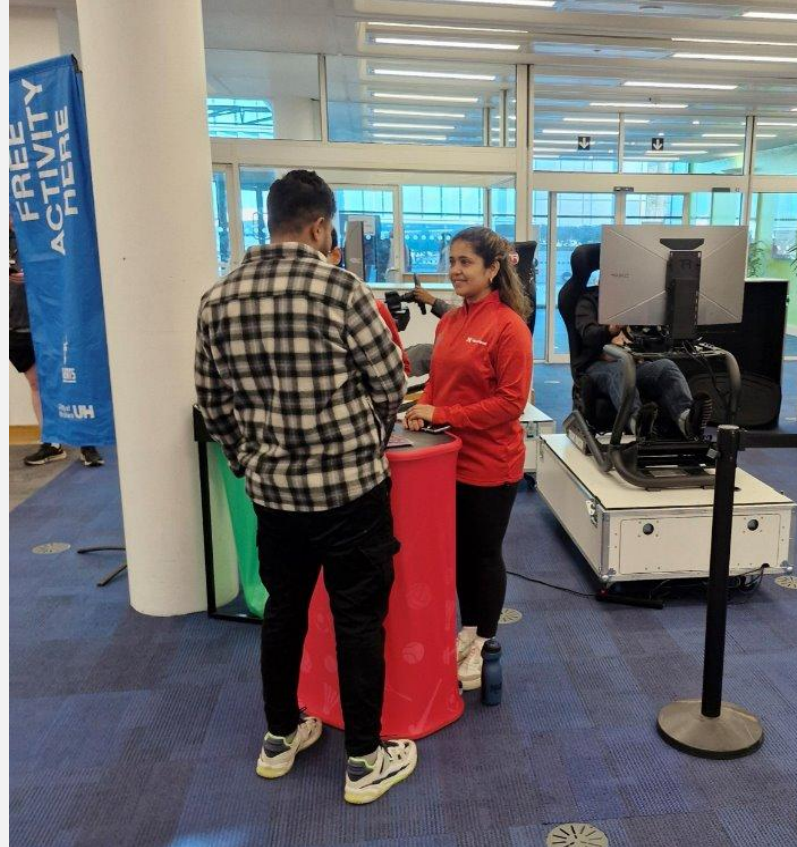
Increased demand for more pet therapy sessions.

Getting active in the LRC

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"It created a lively and interactive atmosphere, encouraging friendly competition and coordination skills"

"I really enjoyed it, although it was my first time playing darts I actually came 2nd. Hope to play again"



Reading for Pleasure – Looking ahead

*"Please do more events,
they make such a
difference and help get us
through work and boosts
our motivation to study"*

*"More pet therapies
with a variety of
pets"*

*"more dog
therapy days –
we love them"*

*"Definitely the best
event for students
on campus!"*



Sensory Study Room

- We repurposed an old storage room to address the lack of sensory related areas on campus.
- Rise in neurodiverse students and students with additional needs enrolling in higher education.
- We wanted to ensure we had a space for sensory engagement, as well as an area for study.



Designing the room

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- Furniture was recycled, donated and reused from offices around the university.
- Received support from:
Student Wellbeing, the Student's Union Elected Officer for Disabled Students, Accessibility and Disability Services Team, Disabled Students' Advocate, and Academic staff.
- A specialist software PC was installed into the room.



Sensory Study Room Outcome

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The room is divided into 2 areas



Sensory area:

Comfy seating, adjustable lights, fidget toys and relaxation resources.



Accessible study area:

Height adjustable table, specialist software PC and a whiteboard.

Sensory items lending collection

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Going forward

- Positive feedback from students on all initiatives
- Plans for next academic year to include:
 - E-gaming
 - Creative writing workshops
 - Board games
 - New sports activities
 - Regular pet therapy sessions



Thank you for listening!

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