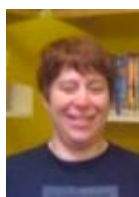


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# A day in the life...



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*Nikki was a keynote speaker at the 2011 LILAC conference. We invited her to provide a snapshot of the many activities she runs to promote reading and information literacy in a busy school library.*

- 08:00 Arrive in school. Unlock doors, turn PCs on and speak to the students who have already arrived!
- 08:30 I lock the library doors and go to staff briefing, asking for any stray books, book boxes and Summer Challenge booklets to be returned to the library by the end of form time.
- 08:45 I head back to the library and have five minutes to plan the day ahead.
- 08:50 The Librarian and an English teacher from another school arrive to look at Accelerated Reader, the reading scheme that we have for our year 7, 8 and 9 students.
- 10:05 A year 9 class arrives for their fortnightly Accelerated Reading (AR) lesson. I praise many students on their progress as well as chatting to individuals about their reading habits and favourite authors. I also print off quiz reports for those who forgot or who took quizzes from home, sign quiz reports and hand out 100% stars as well as issuing, returning and renewing books, and printing off their targets and points for their English teacher to discuss with them. This is a great lesson for my visitors to see AR in action, and they question students about quizzes as well as observing the lesson.
- 11:00 Break. My visitors depart, making positive comments about what they have seen. Students come in, as do my library helpers. I sit down with my new senior pupil librarian to discuss her responsibilities and to see if she has any queries or worries.
- 11:20 – 12:20 My y8 class arrives. After registering them, we spend half of the lesson on a 'treasure hunt' around the library looking

- at Dewey's ten main groups of knowledge. By popular request, we also watch the 'Dewey decimal rap' again. The other half of the lesson is spent quizzing, discussing reading, and handing out praise and 100% stars for Accelerated Reader. I also see two members of staff who want to book the library for the same session, and send a pile of old newspapers down to the Art Department.
- 12:20 Time to judge our annual Summer Challenge, which this year is based on Wimbledon. Task 1 was for each form, working as a team, to design an advertising hoarding to encourage more people to watch Wimbledon. Other tasks included designing a Wimbledon App, coming up with a diet and warm up/down exercises for a tennis player. All forms had to choose a tennis player to display in or around their form room together with a fact, and find each other's players and facts. There is always a reading challenge involving reading the opening chapters of the shortlisted Book Award books and voting for their favourite. The maths/geography task was to work out how many miles the men's and women's semi-finalists had travelled in total to take part in Wimbledon. As well as a form prize, there is a prize for each 'family' of students, which this year is a £20 voucher of their choice. It is a huge undertaking and therefore is rewarded accordingly! The winning form gets to choose their prize – a very difficult job, which takes us an hour! We narrow it down to the winning form in each of our four 'families', and then go through their booklets, comparing each task. It's a very close thing! Once we have finally chosen the winner, I quickly tidy away, grab my lunch and a drink, and tidy away stray books and magazines before the bell rings.
- 13:20 Lunchtime! It's a beautiful day outside, but the library is still busy. I manage to do a quick five-minute training session with my librarians on hardback jacketing at the beginning of lunch whilst it is still reasonably quiet. My librarians run counter, process stock, straighten and shelve books whilst I answer enquiries, help with technical issues and general questions asked by students on the library computers and chat with students about reading, magazine topics, homework and authors.
- 14:00 I ask students to leave the library so that they get to afternoon registration on time, thank my library helpers and tidy up from the lunchtime rush.
- 14:10 There are no classes booked in for the last lesson of the day, so I have the chance to catch up with my emails, add some new stock to the library management system, check my post and confirm that I can attend the year class visit to the local library for a 'Book Idol' event. I also do the draw for the four Star of the Form prizes for Werneth's Wimbledon Challenge, as well as design and print off certificates for participating forms and the 'family' winners. There's just enough time to set up for FilmClub before the bell rings to signify the end of the school day.
- 15:10-15:15 FilmClub members arrive. This week's film is *Spirited away*. I greet the students and start the film, managing to catch about ten minutes of it in between trying to tidy around and dealing with other students who have come in to use the library. I update our FilmClub listings and add more films to our wish list. I just have time to briefly check my presentation for a CILIP training day in York and shelve some books from the overflowing book trolley before the film finishes.
- 17:00 I walk up to reception with the FilmClub stragglers and head home.