

American School of Madrid Citation



As you enter the main building of the American School of Madrid you are welcomed by the Stanton Griffiths Learning Commons on your left.

Initially you see the fiction library; no doors, no barriers, just two short runs of mid-height shelving forming a divide between the corridor and library, creating an inviting and informal feel. A bright and airy space, pupils can relax with a book on the giant bean cushions or around the coffee tables, work in groups around tables or individually in the study carrels.

Attached to this is an enclosed makerspace with Lego, robotics and, arts and crafts materials on offer for students to create and invent.

This makerspace area makes way through to the fiction library with glass walls and doors to create a quieter space for individual study to take place. In this part of the library you will find the main issue desk. In addition to issuing books students can also charge their electrical equipment (mainly phones!). The Librarian has a desk situated in the non-fiction library that ensures staff coverage across the large space. The library is such an inspiring space that Communications Manager also decided to make the library her base.

Two popular private study rooms, equipped with screens provide an area for collaborative work where students can practice presentations or work without disturbing other users. Outside, study tables and carrels provide space for individual quiet study.

Beyond study the library houses a reproduction room. Here students can print their work and teachers can print in large format. Staff can also make promotional materials such as badges and display decorations using the die-cut machine and vast selection of cutters.

The American School of Madrid have definitely used their space well. Students commented that they liked the options of study area depending on their needs and the fact that they could always find somewhere to sit. Aesthetically they remarked how much lighter the library now is and how much better the vinyl flooring is as opposed to having carpet previously which got dirty easily.

The magazine collection includes titles that reflect the interests and hobbies of staff as well as students. With a number of international staff, a collection of guides on Madrid itself and countries throughout Europe for information and inspiration for travel during holidays is on offer.

Events for pupils held in the library have included *Green Eggs and Ham Day* on Dr Seuss' birthday, raising awareness of banned books week and open mic events.

A vision for a space that caters to the entire school community with pupils, teachers and parents using the library has been realised. The Stanton Griffiths Learning Commons has been well planned in terms of zoning, and the use of glass ensures the library is seen as one space even with the openness of the non-fiction library. Understanding the needs of the school community, the library team have made themselves and the library the first port of call for information and in turn an invaluable part of the school.

Culford School Citation



Needing a 21st century facility, Culford School embarked on a mission to move the school library out of its old home on the top floor of the main teaching building to a purpose built, centrally located, standalone building. Now it is not possible to walk between teaching blocks without passing the library on any side making it an integral part of the school.

As you enter the glass fronted building you are greeted by a light and open space with soft seating and curved shelving displaying fiction books. Moving further into the library, solid wood bookcases line the back and right hand side wall with white curved shelving units in the middle of the library space, interspersed with a mixture of low study tables and bar height tables.

Group work, lessons and presentations are facilitated by a spacious, sound proofed glass walled theatre room that can be used as one large space or divided in to two smaller spaces.

The new school library is appreciated across all curriculum subjects. Teachers are able to bring smaller classes in to the library for lessons to use the resources available or host external speakers in the theatre room. Pupils and teachers alike find the new library more accessible and a productive environment in which to work. The library is also visited by pupils from the Prep School in supervised groups.

Pupils find the library comfortable and like that the natural light makes it easier to read, factors that were key considerations when planning of the library began. They also find the new layout makes it

easier to browse and find books in a logical manner. Although well used, with some pupils visiting every day, there is never a shortage of space to work or relax.

One of the aims of the new Library was to provide 6th formers with a space that would aid them in studying for their A' levels and help prepare them for university. This was achieved with a dedicated mezzanine space with a mixture of study and informal easy seating. Additionally, a small kitchen space provides tea and coffee making amenities. The Head of Sixth form describes the space as 'transformational' whilst the students appreciate having an area solely for them and feel they are more engaged in current affairs as the resources are displayed more prominently.

The Librarian and her team work hard on engaging pupils. Inspiring displays around the library bring attention to latest events such as International Women's Day and the Oscars showcasing books that have been turned in to films. These are updated throughout the year and do not go unnoticed by pupils.

A multi-functional space, the library's use extends beyond reading and studying. Parent's evenings, external lectures and other events are held out of school hours, facilitated by a kitchen area for catering. The library extends outside with large glass doors that lead out to a paved area where attendees can gather and socialise.

Culford School's library is a fantastic, modern, well thought-out space with great facilities to serve the needs of its school community.

Headington School Citation



Headington School Library is a blend of ancient and new. It marries the existing building whose beauty has been carefully conserved, with an inspiring 21st century form, the floating glass reading room.

There are four distinctive areas: a dedicated teaching space, a study area with an enquiry desk, a mezzanine for quiet study and the glass reading room. Green is the chosen theme, both in décor and in the strategic approach taken to the management of the Library environment and service. It is a calming colour that has been used to zone floor spaces between walkways and study areas. Ultimately it leads to the reading room where it almost appears as if there is no barrier between 'indoors' and the surrounding outdoor garden. A reader feels as if they are sitting in harmony with

the outdoor space, a most therapeutic experience. The pupils' enjoyment of the space was clear to see both in lessons and throughout the day.

To be an inspiring library design takes more than beauty, its resources must stimulate and feed learning. The stock, both hardcopy and online provides a depth of information which is much appreciated by both staff and pupils. One teacher commented that the development of this library feels like an investment has been made in me, that the further development of my subject knowledge is valued by the school leadership. Careful thought has been given to different ways of learning and smart technology has been wrapped into the design ranging from a touch screen table to sonic chairs giving an offer that is balanced, non-intrusive and flexible. This vision includes how it can free the Librarian's time from clerical tasks to performing the valued work of teaching and supporting pupils and staff.

The ethos was excellent with a high standard of practice and provision which together form an excellent school library model for the 21st century.

Hymers College Library Citation



Headteacher, David Elstone's vision has created a superb Library offer at the heart of his school. The contemporary design with its high glass walls and coloured panes sits among the traditional school buildings. Yet a strong sense of harmony between them is conveyed as they exchange reflections of each other in their windows. School resources: the Library service, reprographics and I.T. have all been drawn into this building design, making it the community's hub. This includes the welcome given to parents, before and after school, who can visit to support their child in the choosing and borrowing of items. Unusually for a school library it is open during the holidays so that pupils can continue to be supported in their studies.

Enhancing both the academic and pastoral life of the school have been central aims driving the design. There are a range of Library areas: a formal study space on the mezzanine; glass

pods for group work; a dedicated technology space; acoustic sofas in the fiction area; leisure seating in the journal reading section; the Gore lecture room with author events and creative activities; a careers service; seminar rooms; and a large meeting room with an outdoor roof area. All accompanied by a café for Homework Club and mixed gender toilets creating an attractive and inspiring Library model.

Clear recognition was given to the impact made by the Librarian's role underpinned by the view that use of the Library has to be taught in order to capitalise on the investment that has been made. Overall an inspiring design has been realised which puts the role of the Library and Librarian at the heart of teaching and learning.

Kingham Hill School Citation



Kingham Hill is well established and respected independent school for the 11 – 18 age range on a large and very scenic site in the North Cotswolds. It needed a new library and the opportunity arose as the use of some buildings were swapped around. In the words of the school's nomination form *'our school library has been transformed from an old fashioned and cramped space to a welcoming and engaging library that encourages reading and learning'*. The school was keen to produce a multi-use flexible 21st century library space – for reading/research, active learning/teaching, for 6th form private study, that included a presentation area for students and parents and with a wide range of books and digital resources. The SLA judges who visited the school would wholeheartedly agree that this has been achieved! The library, opened in the summer of 2016, was moved from what is now the staffroom and has nearly quadrupled in size. With a change of location, situated on two floors linked by a well-placed spiral staircase, with a separate 6th form study enclosed area, a useful upstairs classroom space, lots of study and quiet reading seating, new shelving and display units from Opening the Book, a centrally located issue desk and with lots of flexible and available IT, (no serried ranks of work stations here), the new library is very much fit for purpose. The space has been designed imaginatively, some of it bright and open, some is darker and more intimate with spotlight type lighting. Part of the upper floor is a carefully thought out mezzanine. The whole library space is calm, tidy and welcoming, with muted colours, comfortable seating and clear signage. Teaching staff and students obviously like this new and attractive space, both as a relaxed and stimulating teaching space and as a quiet study and personal reading area. The furniture and book stock is thoughtfully arranged – younger fiction is located by the entrance, non-fiction is upstairs around the classroom area and the issue desk is located in the middle of the ground floor space. There are interactive whiteboards on both floors and with easy access to two bookable trolleys of Chrome books, use of electronic journals is also encouraged. IT is very much in evidence. The experienced professional librarian is very active promoting and supporting reading and the wider school curriculum. She is busy developing digital literacy in the schools and is a key player in providing resources and skills support for exam course work and EPQ. The new library is very much seen as at the heart of the school. The senior staff are enormously very supportive too. The carefully

planned new library not only by its design but also by its use shows clear innovation, creativity and inspiration.

Princethorpe College Sixth Form Library Citation

www.princethorpe.co.uk



Princethorpe College is a Catholic, co-educational, **HMC** independent day school for about 880 pupils aged 11 – 18, of which 202 are in the Sixth Form. Based in a magnificent former Benedictine monastery set in two hundred acres of leafy Warwickshire parkland, the buildings have been extended and up-dated to provide twenty-first century facilities including a Sixth Form Library within a sixth form centre linked to the older building on the ground floor and by a first floor bridge.

This is an attractive, minimalist, clean looking space in which to work quietly. This is a library for study rather than recreational reading as students do not have the time, although a double sided three shelf bay of adult fiction offers respite reading for sixth formers.

The space allows students to work independently, as in a university library, as the aim of the school is to equip students with resilience for life, not just good exam grades. Alternative collaborative spaces are provided elsewhere. Students appreciate the silence but are also able to use headphones so can work to music and they comment it is easy to navigate stock. Staff are encouraged use the library, and years 7 and 8 brought in to see where they are heading.

With many e-resources, shelves offer basic core texts and wider subject reading, with the Head of Sixth form vowing to fight to protect the library budget. Although a small space, students commented they never have trouble finding a seat in which to study, the space lends itself to the necessity of sixth formers to study to achieve their goals in life.