

Lockdown Case Study:

Carol Webb, Head Librarian at Portsmouth Grammar School, Hampshire

Providing support through lockdown

Carol Webb is Head Librarian at Portsmouth Grammar School in Hampshire. During lockdown she has created a wide range of online resources to support students. These include:

- Topic lists of resources in support of coursework
- Booklists on fiction genre for Years 6 – 7
- A padlet to support the shadowing of the Carnegie Book Award
- A series of presentations using Google Slides and Screen Castify for Year 11 pupils to support transitioning to sixth form. Topics included study skills, reading, research skills and resources
- Creating Screen Castify videos demonstrating the use of specific resources for Year 12 studies that teachers were able to share with students
- Creating Screen Castify videos in response to specific pupil enquires to assist in their use of eLibrary resources
- Producing Wakelet resources for fiction and non-fiction books for RSE Day as well as one on a theme of refugees/asylum seekers in fiction.

Carol has also delivered a range of online activities by running three lunchtime reading clubs for groups in Year 7, 8 and 9; a Carnegie shadowing group; a film project; and quizzes. Her support has extended to parents via blogs written for the school's weekly magazine, and to staff by identifying and providing subject resources, and sourcing CPD material for them. She has created literature search reports in response to both staff and student enquiries, lists of books and resources for the Wellbeing curriculum, and a list of recommended fiction reading for each cohort in Years 7 – 11. In addition to the online support and resources, Carol has been evaluating the library stock to ensure it represents a diverse range of voices and perspectives; the new Year 3 and Year 4 diverse fiction collection is now available and the

Main Library has been prepared for potential visits by coursework students after it was left fairly empty following mass-borrowing in March.

As well as support to groups of students, Carol has provided more targeted help such as:

- Guidance on research strategies for individual Year 12 students undertaking coursework and Extended Projects
- Advice for parents on further reading suggestions for their child
- Guidance for staff on how to access the eLibrary and get the best out of specific databases
- Producing a Screen Castify for the English department to share with students on how the eLibrary can support their reading interests
- Engendering a Year 11 book club that involved sharing literary knowledge, modelling the use of literary criticism and encouraging exchange of opinion
- Suggestions of elements for inclusion in new curricula through discussion with colleagues and in meetings with her line manager, a Deputy Head with responsibility for teaching and learning: for example, an activity for the drop-down online Careers Day for Years 7 and 8; a Year 9 project to create a cookbook in German made up of both paper and video products; and the new EPQ course for the sixth form
- Emotional support for staff on the experience of working in lockdown
- Support for students affected by the murder of George Floyd via safeguarding processes and discussion of the issue.

There have been several outcomes from Carol's work and support during lockdown. Two Google docs were created as a result of locating and testing free online resources – one for the Junior School and one for the Senior School - teachers requested if they could share these further which is evidence of connection. Carol continued to maintain a social media presence via the Twitter and Facebook library accounts which resulted in engagement by the Headteacher, parents, Ops (ex-pupils) and teaching colleagues. The school eLibrary, which was kept up-to-date via regular editing and new additions, increased awareness and use of Borrowbox, the eBook platform provided by Hants and Portsmouth City Libraries, and Carol also received staff requests for changes to and new materials to be added to the eLibrary, indicating that staff were using it.

Carol has been delighted to receive several responses with regards to her work. At the end of term she received several cards from her reading club students and emails from sixth form students thanking her for her advice and support. Teaching colleagues in both the junior and senior schools sent her emails thanking her for individual help, for the online resources and support, and for her assistance with the new curricula. Positive feedback was received from the Upper Junior School students regarding the value of online resources that supported reading, parents emailed Carol thanking for the support of their children's reading through the online book clubs, and submissions were received from prospective Year 7 students for the summer holiday book review challenge. Carol even received a personal postcard from the Headteacher!