

SRB Project 2000-2001

The Real Story

As in all schools, real life tends to get in the way of the educational ideals outlined elsewhere on this site. Nowhere has this been more true than over the 2000-2001 season when Rhyddings High implemented a new Build and refurbishment.

Many teaching spaces were taken out of use and lack of funds prevented the provision of temporary classrooms. The Project and Staff suffered.

In 2000-2001 this disruption was a major barrier to the Project's achievements . . .



September 2000 SRB / ICT locational conflict

The Project continues for the second year in the small room next to R15.



Nowhere to mentor students privately, nowhere to sit at a table to work, more through traffic than the M60 Eccles interchange on a busy Monday, absolutely no ventilation, no direct daylight, heating via six inch main central heating pipe at head height – uncontrollable and unpleasantly hot, four PCs yes, but old 486s riddled with viruses. After 15 months in this location SRB Coordinator gives up : ICT expands, SRB retreats to East Block eyrie.

January (ish) 2001 – East Block



Project moves to top of East block (eventually). Now private mentoring space, table space to work at, no through traffic, ventilation via window, direct daylight, friendly neighbours, heating via controllable electric heater. OK, so on moving in no electric light and dangerous light switch (who needs light on a dark January morning?), window continuously streaming with condensation, as the room dries out after years without heating, and displays peel off walls, but four new(ish) PCs that work once the room is above freezing. No viruses. 79 steps to climb to

reach the room. Electrician mending light switch has asthma attack on arrival. Still, great SRB location – Project takes off again. 10 weeks later – SRB ordered out to unknown location. Room now demolished.

April / May 2001 – Behind D1 and North Block



Returned after Easter. Coordinator decided didn't want brains frying by electricity sub-station behind Dining Room 1 "office" (proposed relocation) which scrambled computer monitors (never mind brains). After three homeless weeks SMT persuades North Block staff to share their Staff room with us. Thanks Hums Dept ☺

No private space for mentoring but no through traffic, 4 PCs transferred from East Block, ventilation OK, plenty of daylight – too much to see monitor screens but black sugar paper at window helps here. Comfortable Staff chairs for SRB students at lunchtime. Unusual luxury. SRB "pays" North Block staff by doing the dishes.

Summer arrives. North Block Staff Room (Rosla block) uninhabitable on warm day, suicide on hot day. On worst days, SRB moves to main block quad and resorts to traditional teaching methods sitting under shade of quad trees and watching the ducks and ducklings. Project falters.

September 2001

Project should move to new Student Support Suite (SSS). Suite not ready. SRB plans for 2001-2002 already falling behind.

October 2001



Project begins move to SSS.

New building : old problems. Looks good, (in fact great!) but ventilation for whole suite inadequate - via 3 small windows. No ventilation at all in some rooms. Heaters provided but hardly needed as 15 PCs and all SSS staff and students generate more than enough heat. Humidity often at unpleasant levels. Direct daylight in some rooms not others.

15 (new??) PCs but only 10 working at any one time – others repeatedly crash. Now Birmingham spaghetti-junction levels of

through traffic. Proposed SRB area constantly disturbed. Have Internet connection – great - but speed – hopeless (narrowband). PCs networked – essential SSS curriculum programs not, so that the security of the system is not compromised - but SRB student cracks workstation security within 1 min of sitting down. Network down as hub non-operational after repeated power failures in "new" East Block.

Welcome to another false SRB dawn.