

# CREATE

Create amazing learning spaces

SKILLS SPECIAL



## LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

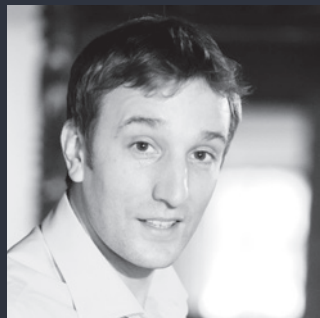
Learning spaces  
for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills

*In this Skills Special issue.....*

- 02** **Introducing The Learning Commons**  
How one old library got its mojo back
- 06** **The Sky's The Limit**  
How to encourage girls to go for STEM
- 04** **Inside Eton's Newest Classroom**  
Creative ICT suite for 21st century learning
- 08** **How To Make A MakerSpace**  
The perfect place for hands-on creativity

**spaceoasis®**  
DESIGN • MANUFACTURE • INSTALL





Welcome to our 'Skills Special' issue of **CREATE**, the magazine from Spaceoasis that aims to inspire you to create amazing learning spaces.

This time we're looking at how learning environments can help students develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills; collaboration, independent learning, problem solving, engaging with STEM, and the creative use of ICT including coding and robotics. The schools in this preview have all seized the opportunity to create an amazing space to support their vision of teaching and learning and we're privileged to have been a part of it.

To read the stories in full, sign up for your free issue of **CREATE** at [spaceoasis.com](http://spaceoasis.com).

Enjoy!

Simon

**SIMON HICK**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
SPACEOASIS

GET IN TOUCH...

T 01952 210197

E [hello@spaceoasis.com](mailto:hello@spaceoasis.com)

T @Spaceoasis

[www.spaceoasis.com](http://www.spaceoasis.com)

Introducing

# THE LEARNING COMMONS

The DHSB Learning Commons: it's a bit like a library, only really cool and super popular.

**H**ow do you encourage reluctant readers (in this case boys) to engage with books? It might seem counterintuitive to get rid of most of them and house what's left in a cool, flexible space replete with computers but that's what Devonport High School for Boys has done. And it has worked.

## LEARNING 2.0

Working with staff and students, Ben Forte, Director of Learning Commons at DHSB, has transformed the old library into a buzzing, social space where learning is collaborative, creative and effective.

Downstairs is carpeted with astroturf. Ewe-Sits (life-size sheep) and bean bags are surrounded by bookshelves that look like hedges to create a relaxing environment where boys can socialise and read.

Upstairs in the Learning Commons, Learning Surface® dry-wipe tables allow students to grab a whiteboard pen at any time so they can work together on projects. In the main area mobile Bite tables, also with LearningSurface®, are moved around by students and teachers to create whichever layout suits their task. Seven study booths in various sizes provide flexible spaces for group or individual work.

## BUSY EVERY DAY

"You'll see some students working collaboratively on the dry wipe tables – we had to buy a lot of pens – while others are in booths practising their presentations and some will be working together on the floor," said Ben Forte, Director of Learning Commons at DHSB. "Outside of lessons it's amazing to see students able to do their homework, eat lunch and socialise all at the same time. It's always busy in here, every day. Many boys choose to remove their shoes when they come into this space, because it's relaxed and comfortable. We've seen a rapid rise in the number of books being read both at school and at home." ■



THINK A LEARNING COMMONS MIGHT BE FOR YOU?

*"Find a furniture company that doesn't just shift boxes. Spaceoasis stands out from the crowd because they're thinking about learning and how to inspire productivity by creating education specific furniture like the tables with LearningSurface."*

**BEN FORTE**  
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING COMMONS, DHSB



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT  
1. INTEGRATED POWER  
2. WRITE, WIPE, REPEAT  
3. SHELVING 'HEDGES'  
4. COLLABORATIVE WORKING  
5. BEANBAGS AND EWE-SITS



TO READ THE FULL CASE STUDY, SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF **CREATE**  
[WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE](http://WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE)



# Inside ETON'S NEWEST CLASSROOM

**T**he Tony Little Centre for Innovation and Research in Learning (CIRL) at Eton College opened in May 2015. Masters use the centre to try new methods of teaching and to share best practice both within and outside the college, while Eton's students experience new ways of learning in a non-traditional environment that is unlike any other in the school.

## CREATIVE ICT SUITE

New technology is ushering in completely new ways of learning and this space is designed to allow the flexible and collaborative use of ICT.

The Creative ICT Suite consists of three zones, all with agile furniture and writable surfaces to encourage creative thinking and collaboration.

- Seven agile Petal tables with LearningSurface® dry-wipe, writable surfaces can be clustered together for collaboration or hived off individually for independent work

- A writable wall and height-adjustable circular LearningSurface® table enclosed by three Agile screens, creates a more intensive thinking and brainstorming space. Upholstered seating around the outside of the screens provides another choice of places to sit.

- Multi-height, irregular-shaped upholstered Lobe stools and laptop tables so students can choose how and where to sit, from perching on the edge of a high stool, to retreating to a quiet corner.

This informal approach to ICT integrates technology in a more relaxed and flexible way than the rigid, fixed bank of screens of a traditional ICT suite. The plethora of writable surfaces in this space also encourages creativity and collaboration in a way that paper and pens simply can't match.

The third area in the Creative ICT Suite is the seminar room, where a bespoke-designed seminar table enables students to interact tutorial-style, much as they would at university or in the workplace.

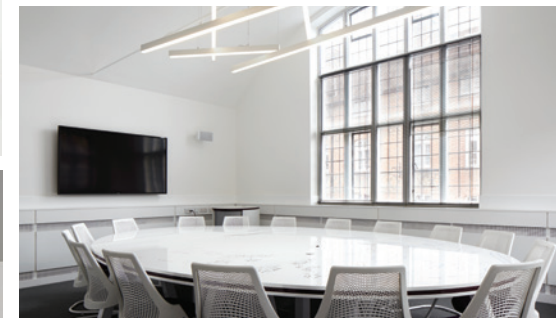
## VIDEO CONFERENCING ROOM

CIRL's sleek, white video conferencing room bears little resemblance to your average facility, with the audiovisual equipment integrated so that not a single cable is visible. This room will act as Eton's window on the world, allowing the college to share its teaching and research with schools and organisations both locally and across the globe. ■

TO READ THE FULL CASE STUDY, SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF CREATE MAGAZINE AT [WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE](http://WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP  
1. WRITABLE SURFACES ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION  
2. SEMINAR TABLE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION  
3. EWE-SITS ON 'ETON MEADOWS'  
4. AGILE AND ADAPTABLE FURNITURE  
5. THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL



*“For this cutting-edge facility we wanted furniture that was exciting, yet also practical and flexible. Spaceoasis worked with us to match the furniture to the spaces perfectly and took remarkable care over every detail. The result is a centre in which every aspect of the furniture is exactly right for how we use it, and a major reason why the overall effect is so stunning.”*

**JONNIE NOAKES**  
HEAD OF TEACHING & LEARNING,  
ETON COLLEGE.



# MISSION POSSIBLE

## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

How one school is giving its girls the confidence to embrace STEM

**Y**our mission, should you choose to accept it, is to create a classroom of the future that will inspire students

and teachers to think without limits. No small ask, but for The Holy Cross School in New Malden, an ambitious, non-selective Catholic Girls' school that sits in the top 5% of schools nationally for value-added progress, striving for excellence is second nature.

"We wanted an inspirational space that would enable students to see themselves as capable of achieving in technology," explains Mary Andersen, Business Manager, The Holy Cross School.

"Somewhere that would build confidence and make them want to have a go. Spaceoasis and I both wanted to remove barriers to learning and to use the learning environment to challenge traditional preconceptions; their input was really valuable and the furniture is definitely built to last."

### THE FUTURE TECH LEARNING STUDIO

Working with Spaceoasis, Mary and her colleagues designed an agile room that can accommodate up to 45 students working in different areas, although an ordinary lesson will have 30 or fewer. Specialists have been brought in to teach robotics and engineering, reflecting the school's holistic investment in STEM subjects that goes beyond the room itself. Fully timetabled, the room is used for teaching maths, science, robotics, electronics and computing and for school enrichment clubs.

*"As soon as the girls enter The Studio they light up, are happy and highly motivated to learn..."*

LISA PEIRCE, HEAD OF COMPUTING

### A closer look at the Future Learning Technology Studio and its furniture:

- Mobile Bite tables with dry-wipe writable hinged surfaces that flip up 90°
- Fixed benching around two sides of the room accommodates Mac computers
- A mobile teacher station chosen to eliminate clutter and encourage fresh thinking
- A large elliptical LearningSurface table, with curved bench seating around one side, is flanked by a standing-height bench with integrated power points and a second teacher station to encourage variety in points of focus.
- A separate, soundproofed robotics studio houses more Bite tables
- Virtual skylights created with illuminated sky panels in the ceiling lend a feeling of space and of limitless possibilities.



"You can move the furniture around and that's instantly empowering," said Mary. "Each teacher chooses how they want to use the room. Students and teachers are encouraged to move around too, which is energising."

Lisa Peirce, Head of Computing, commented, "As soon as the girls enter The Studio they light up, are happy and highly motivated to learn. The learning surfaces on the Bite tables are brilliant as students are definitely more willing to share their ideas, knowing they can easily rub anything out and improve upon their first attempts."

A Year 11 robotics student agreed, "I feel like anything is achievable here," she said. "It's a really cool, high tech environment. I now plan to become a robotics engineer."

An enthusiastic GCSE electronics student shared that, "Instead of just looking at an object and taking it at face value, I now think about what's happening inside and how it actually works."

It will be some time before we know if significant numbers of the Holy Cross girls go on to a career in STEM but for now, it's mission accomplished! ■

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT  
1. WRITABLE SURFACES FOR FAST THINKING  
2. ELLIPTICAL TABLE WITH WRITABLE SURFACE  
3. ROBOTICS STUDIO  
4. ILLUMINATED CEILING PANELS  
5. A SPACE THAT MAKES YOU GO "WOW!"



TO READ THE FULL CASE STUDY,  
SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COPY  
OF CREATE MAGAZINE AT  
[WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE](http://WWW.SPACEOASIS.COM/RESOURCES/CREATE-MAGAZINE)



How to make a

# MAKERSPACE

A MakerSpace should be a place where learning comes from hands-on exploration, designing, making and tinkering...

A place of independent, self-directed learning that is deeply collaborative and technology enabled. Set the task (or let them choose) and then allow your students come up with their own solution; problem solving at its most absorbing. Whether you're taking apart a defunct piece of technology to find out how it works, building a robot or designing and making a game or toy, the maker space needs to offer limitless possibilities. To enable this free-reign independence the space has to be well laid out and super-organised.

## The anatomy of a MakerSpace:

### Shelves

With a system so you can keep track of all the donated parts and kit.

### Writable surfaces

Vertical (walls & screens) and horizontal (table surfaces) to provide places to figure stuff out.

### Free floor space

How fast can your elastic band car go? How far can your catapult throw things? You need some open space to accommodate your experiments.

### Seating

Stools at the benches, chairs at the tables and desks, tiered seating for collaboration.

### Power sockets

Many, many power sockets. Some hanging, some in the wall with USB ports for charging devices.

### Storage

Slatwall or pegboards for tools, colour coded drawers so you can easily find what you're looking for.

### Benches

Agile, reconfigurable & able to withstand a soldering iron.



T 01952 210197

E [hello@spaceoasis.com](mailto:hello@spaceoasis.com)

@Spaceoasis

spaceoasis®

DESIGN • MANUFACTURE • INSTALL