

EDITION 1 - JUNE 2020

SLG SCOTLAND

NEWSLETTER

PROVIDING NEWS, INFORMATION
AND UPDATES MONTHLY



Hello and a warm welcome to our very first newsletter. At SLG Scotland we want to do our best to make sure that as many school librarians as possible are able to still feel connected to our profession during lock-down and the current crisis. This is such an unprecedented time and as a committee we wanted to highlight some of the amazing work that school librarians are leading and some of the opportunities which have arisen.

In this newsletter you will find CPD sessions, inspiring Twitter accounts to follow, tips for working from home and links to free resources. We hope you find this newsletter useful and that it gives you some ideas to take forward.

Twitter accounts to follow

Check these accounts for lots of inspirational ideas, resources and support.



@lucasjmaxwell - UK School Librarian of the year 2017 and author @BookRiot. Lots of great ideas available on his school library blog as well.

@Elizabethutch - Trainer and adviser for school libraries and vice chair of the #GreatSchoolLibraries campaign. Check out her website as well for more information, webinars and ideas.

@teentitlesmag - A YA book review magazine full of very honest reviews by Edinburgh teenagers.

@uklibchat - Next chat, Libraries after Lockdown - June 1st - 7-8.30pm

Working from home

How to make the most of it



For the majority of us, working at home will be a completely new territory. We know lockdown has been in place for 8+ weeks now but we felt it would be useful to get some ideas on how working at home is going for people. After a call out on Twitter for some help we have compiled a hints and tips list based on what school librarians are finding works for them. Obviously everyone is in a different situation but hopefully you can try some of these to see if they improve your working from home life.

- 1 - First off - do not give yourself a hard time, it is so easy to see what other librarians are doing and start to stress out. Please don't. Everyone has different circumstances. Just do what feels right for you, your pupils and school.
- 2 - Keep in touch with colleagues - whether that be through emails, online meetings or over the phone. Keep up your professional dialogue, chat though any problems you are encountering, recommend books, CPD sessions, websites, anything that you think could help.
- 3 - There are so many wonderful CPD sessions available at the moment but it can be easy to forget when they are happening, where they are being hosted and what ones are relevant. Keep a notebook (or use a notes app on your phone) with a list of what is available. If there is too many then either prioritise what is most relevant or look for ones you can watch recordings of later to help you plan your time.
- 4 - Have a timetable and some structure to your day. This will help you feel in control of your work and hopefully help you feel able to whittle down that to do list.
- 5 - Have a dedicated space to work, make sure you have everything you need close at hand to save time.
- 6 - Finally - look after yourself. Get out each day and chat to people about anything other than work and libraries. Take this time to tackle your 'To Be Read' list. Be kind to yourself and if you feel yourself struggling reach out to someone.

CPD opportunities

One good thing to come out of the lockdown is the amount of accessible free CPD opportunities that are available. Below is a list of the ones we have found, if there are any that we have missed please let us know either on Twitter or by email and we can let others know.



The school communities' team are running fully funded online training sessions across Scotland. Sign up to attend the Zoom sessions.

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning-and-resources/clpl-for-learning-professionals>

Sessions include – Book chatroom for primary and secondary schools and staff book groups.



Online training programme from CILIPs covering a whole range of different topics across different sectors in the profession. If you miss any of the sessions, there is a catch-up video service available.

<https://www.cilips.org.uk/cilips-online-learning/>

Sessions include – Implementing the National Strategy for School Libraries in Scotland, Chartership and Certification and Building Better Readers.



A video relating to COVID 19: Safety tips for reopening your library. It might be a bit more American based but I am sure it will have handy tips for when we go back to work.

<https://ideas.demco.com/webinar/covid-19-safety-tips-for-reopening-your-library/>



Webinars providing free practical professional learning in inclusive digital technologies that could benefit your pupils with Additional Support Needs. Webinars start at 4pm and last for 20 minutes. Sign up to take part.

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/professional-learning/webinars/>

Sessions include – Using Technology to support Storytelling for all learners and archived sessions including Learning using educational comics.



Also check out - Education Scotland for practitioner support -

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/supporting-online-learning-links-for-practitioners/>

