



## The Michael Morpurgo Library

### West Buckland School

The Michael Morpurgo library and study centre at West Buckland School is located on a beautiful rural campus near Barnstaple, Devon. The ground floor houses the library and provides IT resources, classrooms, a higher education and careers area and open plan study spaces. The upper floor provides study facilities dedicated for the use of Sixth Form students and creates the type of environment and ambience that the students are likely to encounter at university. Officially opened by Michael Morpurgo, OBE, the new library provides students with an exceptional learning environment.

Our brief was to create a modern, inviting and motivating learning space. The white and oak clad interior has a true architectural feel. The high ceilings, a mezzanine and industrial-look pendant lighting gives the library a light, bright contemporary vibe contrasting with its rural setting. It was therefore important to space plan the interior to maximise the architectural features while meeting all the individual and group demands of a high use, educational space.

Welcoming students to the ground floor library is a white standing, sitting and storage counter with dust grey tops and purple recessed fronts for DDA access. For extra impact and a reminder of the library's namesake the name of the library, 'The Michael Morpurgo Library', is clearly seen on the main counter unit.

The purple, white and grey colour theme is continued throughout with a burst of bright turquoise bringing an unexpected pop of colour to the understated, minimalist

space. Demco's Cantilibra steel library shelving is a design classic and a mix of wall fixed and island bays make the best use of space. Island bays have white slatwall end panels to house acrylics for leaflet storage, display etc. The shelving is super flexible with heavy duty castors so the space can be easily reconfigured. Quick pick browser boxes in white add a public library feel to the space.

Funky purple and charcoal grey, four seater sofas with a centre back are interspersed between the shelving. Their modular style makes them super flexible as they can be pushed and pulled into different configurations. Study desks continue the purple theme and a tonal effect is created with individual sections in gradient colours. The tables can be configured for different types of study and are easily stackable when the space needs to be re-purposed. High volume, stackable study chairs are used throughout for practical and robust study use.

Demco's strong, adjustable height, Olympus IT desking, with built in cable management, runs around the perimeter of the ground floor space. The first floor is dedicated to sixth formers and is designed with a University feel to help bridge the gap between school and University study. Quiet study spaces, fixed IT benching and reconfigurable study desks and chairs complete the interior. This is a space that has been designed to be quiet and calm.

We're pleased and proud to have been associated with this wonderful new library named after one of the nation's best loved writers.

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