breathetechnology
systems integration | support | security

St John Fisher
Catholic High School
Peterborough

Case Study

St John Fisher Catholic High School

St John Fisher Catholic High School is a multicultural secondary school located in Peterborough. The original school was founded 1956 and is the only Catholic school in Cambridgeshire. It is relatively small in comparative terms, comprising a total of 750 pupils including 6th form, so is able to promote the benefits associated with small class sizes.

After receiving a Government grant to build a new school, the challenge was to maximise the funds available and ensure that all elements of the project were managed appropriately.

The acting head was keen to ensure that the new building had a robust and secure ICT network to facilitate the smooth running of the school. In addition, he wanted to ensure all pupils were given the opportunity to maximise their learning opportunities by having access to the latest equipment and technologies.

The school was aware of its limitations concerning IT and decided to seek external support so they could benefit from impartial advice and maximise their investment. Breathe Technology was chosen as the preferred IT partner to manage the project because of its extensive experience in building secure IT networks and implementing effective ICT strategies for schools throughout the UK.

> "Breathe Technology Ltd has expertise in their field, and employing them to manage our IT requirements ensures we are maximising our limited resource. In addition, Breathe Technology always goes above and beyond their responsibilities and has helped us to install specialist equipment such as white boards, or the implementation of cashless catering facilities."

Caroline Behan, Business Manager, St. John Fisher Catholic High School

Benefits for St. John Fisher Catholic High School

- Expert advice is always available (technically and industry-relevant)
- Better understanding of the different technologies available
- Ability to deploy technology best suited to meet specific needs
- Improved security (the school is now in accordance with legislation)
- Implementation of a formal ICT policy that is strictly adhered to
- Improved management of ICT equipment and resources

Challenge

Schools are totally dependent on their IT networks. They are used for timetable scheduling, finance management, teaching support, general administration, parent-school communication as well as facilitating flexible and e-learning.

In addition, schools are expected to upgrade their IT equipment every 3-5 years to reflect technology trends as all courses and qualifications are based on the latest software available. This is becoming increasingly more challenging as a result of rigorous austerity measures being introduced.

Solution

Breathe Technology was given total responsibility for the implementation of a new ICT system that would enable the school to achieve its long-term strategic objectives.

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The Project

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The project also involved:

- Installing server and desktop virtualization technologies
- Providing specialist filtering software for pupil safety purposes
- Setting up email facilities for high volume usage
- Installing a robust security system for data protection and disaster recovery
- Providing level 2 and level 3 support facilities to internal staff

In addition to the above, breathe has been involved in the implementation of a comprehensive IT strategy that is strictly adhered to by pupils and staff. This incorporates elements such as back-up processes and responsible use of the Internet by pupils

The school has a large proportion of non-English-speaking pupils who often perform under the national average in terms of literacy. breathe has been involved in accelerating their progress by ensuring that the school has access to appropriate IT equipment and technology at an affordable price.

Security

When designing an IT network for a school, a number of factors have to be taken into consideration including appropriate web filtering software and adequate security facilities to ensure that pupil data is protected at all times. Information must be encrypted, for example, if laptops are taken offsite.

The school was aware of the risks it was taking and of their potential consequences so sought the Breathe Technology's help with the implementation of a formal policy to ensure compliance with current legislation.

ICT Support

To ensure the smooth running of the school, breathe provides the school with comprehensive support and is responsible for resolving all ICT related issues. This involves providing level 2 and level 3 support to internal staff and providing escalation facilities to resolve more complex issues.

Breathe Technology has developed a bespoke support package for the school that included the provision of a dedicated support engineer for the school. A senior technology consultant from breathe technology is also a member of the school's ICT strategic group and offers advice on all issues relating to IT.

The Future

The school has been so pleased with the support provided by breathe Technology to date that it has recently awarded the company a contract to provide a comprehensive managed service facility for all aspect of its ICT requirements.

This means that breathe technology is now fully responsible for the school's implementation of ICT, including trialling and recommending new equipment.

About Breathe Technology

Breathe technology is a successful systems integrator that has been designing, installing and commissioning highly resilient, purpose-built ICT networks for public and private sector organisations since 2003. They also provide an extensive range of managed services, enabling Schools and colleges to effectively manage their ICT resource and assets.

Breathe Technology is able to provide the specialist skill sets that the majority of Schools/colleges do not have internally, and that many conventional outsourced companies do not supply. It has an in-depth understanding of ICT deployment in academic environments, and the ability to assist management teams with their ICT strategies as well as the implementation of a "proven and template-based" network design.