

Hummersknott School and Language College

The Client Hummersknott, situated in the south-west outskirts of Darlington, is a successful and thriving Community School. Academic progress is good, with results well above national and local averages. As a Specialist Language College the school is committed to ensuring that all students have access to a wide range of languages. With partner schools in France, Germany, Spain, Russia and China, students have opportunities to exchange with students in these countries and take part in visits abroad.

The Need Hummersknott was in the process of a significant refurbishment in respect of both its buildings and ICT infrastructure. The school was looking for a company who could do more than just supply ICT solutions they were looking for a partner who could offer support and expertise in the form of a fully managed service. The solution needed to be flexible enough to support their day to day activities throughout the turbulence of the refurbishment including several relocations of teaching space.

The Solution A comprehensive systems audit was carried out to analyse the usage of ICT throughout the school and provided a baseline for improvements. This produced a technology roadmap which gave both the school and Core an achievable vision to follow.

Core undertook a redesign of the local area and wireless networks to ensure that the converged network solution would provide best value, whilst still allowing a flexible, multi-service capable network to deliver voice, video and data throughout the school campus as well as building service functions such as CCTV and Building Management Systems.

Many challenges presented along the way. The newly refurbished building to be populated with the ICT had no air cooling system. Core investigated other classroom based technology to find a solution to this problem. A thin client solution based on Citrix was decided on. This solution provided benefits with reduced heat emissions in addition to using less power and providing a longer lifecycle.

The final managed service solution provided included the use of the following technologies:

- Talmos Learning Platform including parental portal and VLE
- HP ProCurve Local Area Network and Wireless Network with centralised management
- Mitel 3300 IP telephone system and call logger
- Citrix thin client server farm based on a HP Blade environment with 270 desktop devices
- Front of class interactive teaching systems
- Core services power protection system
- Internal and External IP Surveillance Solution
- Data backup and recovery solution

The Result By outsourcing their managed ICT support and design to Core, the school have both reduced their annual support costs and increased the resilience and reliability of the school network.

The reduced requirement for management at the desktop, due to the predominately thin client student equipment, has allowed the ICT team at the school to work on expanding and developing the use of ICT within the school. By harnessing the power of a well designed and managed IP infrastructure, the school has been able to take advantage of a fully integrated voice, video and data network.