

Longfield School

The Client Longfield is a 900+ school in Northern England with specialist status in PE achieved in 2004. Before the current Principal took over in 2003, exam results were at 38% grades C and above. The current Head when appointed, considered the use of ICT to be the way forward and with less than 60 machines in school, 6 ICT suites were developed and 100 hours a week of bookable time. The school has now gained the NACE Charter Mark and the Northern Grid and BECTA Whole School Use of ICT Excellence Award.

The Need ICT had little relevance at cross curricular level so the starting point was to work with staff to help identify how ICT could be used to enhance their performance. The migration over to the use of ICT needed to be carefully managed, with solutions ready for anticipated problems in order to prevent negativity setting in. An audit of existing infrastructure, hardware and software revealed serious limitations and relied on the staff pulling together. With a restricted budget and a need to lease equipment, the school relied heavily on partners to provide best value and share expertise.

The Solution Exemplar material from sources such as QCA were used to encourage staff to recognise opportunities to use ICT and CPD was developed to form strategies for using ICT for both teaching and learning with the difference stressed to teachers. With Champions appointed in each curricular area the use of the TALMOS Learning Platform motivated staff to improve schemes of work, collaborate and share best practice. Teachers were encouraged to investigate and recommend resources to integrate within this environment. An internet accessible computer was placed on every teacher's desk and an Interactive Whiteboard in every room. All staff started from scratch with the same equipment and access to software irrespective of ability or interest. Individual staff were identified within each curricular area to be responsible for implementing new ideas and change and to support departmental colleagues.

The SMT audited and evaluated long and short term planning and motivated staff to develop and improve schemes of work to include ICT. This did involve a lot of work but change became self perpetuating once staff discovered how motivating the use of ICT could be.

Although a lot of work was initially generated, teachers very quickly saw that this was a one off and began to benefit from pre prepared resources.

The Result Working very closely with Core Education, the next phase of ICT development is well under way. The TALMOS Learning Platform is rapidly becoming integral to all aspects of teaching, learning, assessment, communicating and gathering information and administration within the school. It has the capability to be not only a managed learning environment but also a single log on for registration, pupil documentation, school news and information from both work and home. Full parental access has now been rolled out and is proving a real window into the world of education for all stakeholders at Longfield School.

Whilst not wholly down to the use of ICT, Longfield's examination results now read 75% grades A-C with English and Maths at 49% with a pupil computer ratio now better than 2:1.

Longfield School and Core Education continue to work together to develop an exciting and engaging learning environment.