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SUPPORTING TEACHING & LEARNING

DEVELOPING A SCHOOL ICT NETWORK

PROVEN IN TERM TIME

“In a nutshell, the IT is driven by the teaching and not vice versa.”

**Trevor Benstock – Director of IT
Bradfield College**



Full control

The wireless network is fully manageable and monitored, with tailored access levels.

Commercial IT Services had been working with Bradfield as their preferred infrastructure partner since 2013 and so the College invited Commercial to recommend a new design for their wireless network. A proof of concept was trialed based on a solution from Meru Networks and it quickly proved successful. Students and staff reported overwhelmingly that access to the system was both easier and more reliable than ever before.

The system has since been expanded across the 250-acre campus, including open areas such as tennis courts. Wireless access is tailored to user groups and is fully managed and monitored. The system has been further tailored to provide different layers of access during the day so, for instance, boarding students can view BBC iPlayer out of school time.

LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD

“Our partnership is based on the personal relationship we have with the team at Bradfield and a clear understanding of how the College wish to use technology to complement teaching and learning,” explains Stuart Colley, a Technical Architect in the Education team at Commercial.

A number of other projects have been undertaken collaboratively with the College, including consolidating the student data system and integrating their Apple Mac and Windows networks. One of the key challenges has been to investigate the College’s storage infrastructure and to introduce greater resilience by enabling data storage to be split across two key locations. A virtual storage solution from HP has been implemented which writes data across two devices at the same time.



“In partnership with Commercial, we have built a solid core to our wireless infrastructure and server based services with a flexible solution to adapt to the changing needs of staff and students.”

**Rob Dearing – Technical Network Manager
Bradfield College**

Following implementation, the College now has virtual hosts and storage at both sites, ensuring that all information is fully backed up. Bradfield now enjoys the use of a more robust network and users appreciate the flexibility of quickly accessing all their documents on any device.

The new network brings much greater flexibility with it too. For instance, after a field trip the Geography Department can increase its own storage to keep and manipulate photographs. The storage utilisation can then be reduced once the photographs have been used.

“In a nutshell, the IT is driven by the teaching and not vice versa,” explains Trevor Benstock, Director of IT Services at Bradfield, “That means the teachers get the outcomes they want the IT to deliver.”

A CLASS ABOVE IN WIRELESS NETWORKING

- Renewing wireless estate across the campus
- Access tailored to user and to time
- Cost-effective plug and play solution
- Reconfigured infrastructure

STORAGE AND BACK UP ACROSS TWO SITES

Bradfield College is a co-educational independent school for boarding and day pupils, located in the village of Bradfield in the Berkshire countryside. A member of the Rugby Group of schools, Bradfield currently has around 470 male and 260 female pupils. Following an internal audit, the college decided to make a significant investment in upgrading its IT infrastructure.



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