CDW has helped Bolton School create a dynamic learning environment with iPad

One of the top performing independent schools in the North of England, Bolton School believes in delivering traditional values using modern approaches. Building on a longstanding commitment to IT, the school’s innovative 1:1 iPad programme puts it firmly at the forefront of e-learning in the UK.

Bolton School

“Technology has become a natural extension to the lives of young people today,” states Philip Britton MBE, Headmaster of Bolton School Boys’ Division. “And so it is that we are preparing our pupils for a working life that will involve technology. However this is part of an approach to teaching that embraces variety; it is not about replacing the teacher.”

Bolton School excels academically. The strategic decision by senior management to undertake a 1:1 iPad programme was therefore not to solve a problem. Instead it reflects the school’s holistic vision for education today - and in the future.

Improving Learning Outcomes

“The expectation of strong grades is a given for Bolton School. We are committed to helping our students achieve those results, but there are other skills that are essential to the experience here at the school,” comments Sue Hincks, Headmistress of Bolton School Girls’ Division. “Our iPad-based approach to e-learning directly reinforces the key traits we nurture in our pupils - independence in learning, resilience and overcoming a fear of failure, learning to work collaboratively and discovering how to think creatively.”

CDW’s education specialists have helped Bolton School’s IT team design a bespoke deployment strategy for their fleet of around 2,500 iPads. From the leasing of the devices through to the configuration of productivity software on each iPad, CDW has been on hand to ensure the best outcomes for Bolton School, its pupils, and its staff.

Overview

Client
Bolton School

Solution:
iPad, Apple TV, iTunes

About Bolton School
Bolton School has an esteemed history spanning back to 1516. Today the Bolton School Foundation, comprises five schools within the magnificent shared grounds.

Encompassing senior and junior girls’ and senior and junior boys’ schools, supported by a co-educational infants school, this is an academic institution operating on an impressive scale. Each of the schools is dedicated to achieving a truly holistic education for its pupils.

Technology has long been a core part of an education at Bolton School. Established 13 years ago, and managing a fleet of mobile devices akin to a mid-size enterprise, Bolton School’s IT team supports a deeply considered approach to e-learning technology. The provision of ICT reflects the reality of digital devices in everyday life, but is never at the expense of excellent teaching.
Teaching with Apple

E-learning has become a central part of the personal development in which Bolton School so strongly believes. “One of the great benefits of e-learning is its role in supporting a full education. For a pupil who has been playing rugby or learning the violin, it is far easier to re-integrate into a curriculum when you can review materials and watch a presentation,” Mr Britton identifies. “Technology is allowing learning and personal development to go hand-in-hand.”

Bolton School showcases the power of technology to support a pupil’s development across the board. It is easy for a diverse range of activities to be supported, while learning in the classroom also becomes more impactful and fun.

“Some of us were schooled in an era of blackboard, others with photocopiers and then desktop computers. The current generation are enjoying a more dynamic and interactive experience on iPad,” reflects Miss Hincks. “I recently saw a class studying adaptations in animals. Pupils were able to share images they had researched via AirPlay using the Apple TVs we have in place. This makes learning very collaborative and engaging.”

Bolton School’s teaching staff have also immersed themselves in the technology. iTunes U is a core part of the classroom experience, and many teachers have created bespoke course materials – used both in class and for independent study. An ethos of proactive and creative learning is embodied by staff and pupils alike.

Working with CDW

With such large school premises, getting the most from the huge fleet of iPads requires devices that can connect wirelessly wherever they need to. CDW worked closely with Bolton School’s Head of IT, Tony Fox, to manage this connectivity – as well as the fleet of devices and the key productivity apps selected in consultation with the school.

“With around 2,500 tablets, and numerous desktops and laptops in addition, we operate on the scale of a mid-size enterprise,” states Mr Fox. “CDW has been a critical partner in this deployment, in no small part, because of their expertise when it comes to Apple technology. Knowing they are a certified Apple Solution Expert for Education has provided great reassurance. In real terms their team and ours have worked in absolute harmony, and we know that we can turn to them to help resolve any challenges we face.”

CDW supported Bolton School in identifying the most cost effective way to manage the iPad fleet. Through a lease agreement, the school is provided with the latest technology today, knowing that, when they need to upgrade, the process is easy to manage logistically and financially. CDW is there to support the full lifecycle from configuration and deployment through to ongoing support and eventually replacement.

“Within the IT team, we are always looking to support the traditional values of the school,” states Mr Fox. “Our use of Apple technology has helped deliver a holistic experience to the pupils in a very modern way. CDW’s support has been, and continues to be, a key part of this journey.”

Solution Summary

• Custom leasing programme of circa 2,500 iPads; sourcing and provision of tough cases for school use.
• Provision of wireless LAN technologies covering indoor and outdoor areas.
• Deployment of Mobile Device Management Software to provide a secure, safe way for pupils to connect to the internet.
• Consultancy, Apple Professional Development training and deployment of productivity apps, iTunes U and other Apple for Education tools.

Mr Fox – Head of IT, Bolton School

“ Our use of Apple technology has helped deliver a holistic experience to the pupils in a very modern way.”

Miss Hincks – Head Teacher, Bolton School Girls’ Division

“ Our students have gained greater independence, curiosity, collaboration and enjoyment within their school life.”

For more information, speak to CDW:

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