



Complete IT Infrastructure Case Study

Grieg City Academy



Technology Turns the Key

Grieg City Academy, formerly St David's and St Katherine's School, suffered a catalogue of problems including poor attendance, low achievement levels and bullying. Student aspiration was low and change was badly needed. For this reason it was chosen as one of the first schools to be part of Government's City Academy initiative. It received significant investment and succeeded in being the very first City Academy in the country to officially open.

European Electronique became involved with the school just before an application had been made for City Academy status. Prior to this, ICT purchasing had lacked any central co-ordination. Different budget holders had invested independently of each other with a variety of companies and based on advice that was absent of any knowledge of the complete picture. European Electronique chaired dozens of meetings and worked patiently with all the stakeholders at the school including the management team, Becta, the LEA and external education and building consultants to ensure that everyone's viewpoint could be heard, eventually succeeding in agreeing a unified direction for ICT.

Initially a very simple infrastructure was created with dual servers (admin and curriculum) and just eighty workstations. As building improvements have been phased in and budgets made available, ICT has been gradually extended throughout the school and more importantly into every aspect of the school curriculum. The project has been subject to four ICT phases, European Electronique have submitted a competitive tender for three phases and have been awarded all three to date. Phase four is due early in 2005.

Today Greig City Academy can boast one of the most technically cutting edge academic networks in secondary education. It has been, and continues to be, inspirational to witness the radical change in student attitude and culture that continues since City Academy status was bought about.

Detailed below is a brief statement relating to each of the key areas of the project;

Network Infrastructure

European Electronique's in-house cabling team have been responsible for the design and implementation, of all new Cat5 and fibre optic cabling. They have also re-terminated and re-tested existing structured cabling where possible

Based around a Cisco 6509 core switch, the network has a gigabit backbone emanating from the core to a mixture of Cisco and HP switches in edge cabinets.

The school now has full wireless network coverage utilising Cisco 1200 Series Access Points. This is used primarily for the Wireless Tablet PCs, but will also integrate with the IP Telephony system.

European Electronique undertook full consultancy and design of the Windows 2000 / 2003 Server Active Directory and Sentinel Ranger Suite desktop security software. This was implemented on industry standard HP ProLiant servers, housed in data cabinets with the related peripherals (KVMs, Rackmount Monitors etc). Other servers supplied and implemented included a 1Tb Network Attached Storage (NAS) server, Quantum Tape Backup Library an Avantis CD-Server.

A 12000va UPS, supplied and installed by European Electronique, provides full backup in the event of a power outage.

European Electronique has implemented a full Cisco IP Telephony system expanding across the entire site with 70 traditional IP handsets and 50 IP "soft" phones, used on the Wireless Tablet PCs with the IP Blue software. Power-over-Ethernet is used to provide the power to the Access Points from the inline power Cisco 3550 switches. These switches all draw their power from individual UPS so that in the event of a power failure the entire phone network will stay online for several hours.

Software Systems

Software such as MailMarshal, Symantec Anti Virus, Veritas Backup Exec, Microsoft ISA Server and Microsoft SMS Server has been implemented.

European Electronique provided specific educational software for teaching and have assisted the Academy in creating a Virtual Learning Environment.

Client Devices

To date there have been approx. 400 workstations installed at the school, and European Electronique's role has included image creation and physical roll-out.

All machines have the ability to be locked to their desks by the way of Kensington Anchor Points and Kensington Security Kits.

The School has 65 HP Tablet PCs used by teaching staff. As well as supplying these, European Electronique provided custom-made security brackets for the docking stations and fitted them.

All equipment has been bar-coded and a database provided listing all equipment and their locations.

Peripheral Equipment

European Electronique supplied and installed over 50 Interactive whiteboards and projectors and a further 33 ceiling mounted projectors. The projectors are all wireless capable, enabling them to be controlled from the Wireless Tablet PCs.

A Polycom Viewstation mobile Video Conferencing Suite unit was provided by European Electronique.

A 42" plasma display is located in the school's reception was supplied and installed by European Electronique together with the equipment to enable video / data to be pushed across the cat5 infrastructure to the screen.

Customer Testimonial

"Our partnership with European Electronique's has certainly saved Greig City Academy money, but more significant is its impact on the students, teaching and the turn-around in the academy's reputation and performance. Putting in the new technology was a key turning point - a landmark - in our change and development. The students just aren't engaged by a chalk and blackboard environment. But the technology that European Electronique delivers is a great enabler in getting students involved, interested and enthusiastic about learning."

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