

Sandwell College



Sandwell College transforms teaching through the power of ICT

Background

Sandwell College in the West Midlands is building a new, high-tech campus under the Government capital programme for further education. European Electronique was successful in its bid to become the Information Computer Technology Partner to advise and assist Sandwell College in creating an enhanced teaching and learning environment for the community.

Set to open in 2011, the new campus situated on Spon Lane in West Bromwich, will integrate the latest in ICT. The provision of state-of-the-art digital and interactive technology will support academic staff in delivering stimulating, dynamic and flexible teaching to their students.

Sandwell College intends to transform the teaching environment through the increased use of curriculum-focused learning bases. Each learning base will form the hub for teaching and encourage collaborative learning whilst benefiting from the latest that technology has to offer to deliver information and resources.

The learner experience will be enhanced by SMART technology including interactive whiteboard, live streaming and pre-recorded video, digital signage, provision of e-books, wireless access and a secure ID system. These innovations will empower the college to create an exciting learning experience.

European Electronique will advise on the implementation of carbon-efficient and sustainable solutions including energy-saving IT servers and communication networks and a centralized print management system that reduces paper consumption and wastage. The design of the College has been scored under BREEAM standards as 'Very Good'.

"These innovations will help our teachers deliver classes more effectively, as well as transforming the way students learn," said Amir Kanwar, Head of Network Services for the college.

Through more than 10 years of partnership with European Electronique, Sandwell College has implemented new technologies as they have emerged, including Storage Area Network, Server Virtualization and Wireless Network Access.

New innovations planned include Blade Servers, Physical Security (College entry door access and CCTV), enhancements to the wireless network, increased use of virtualization, digital signage, cashless catering and IP telephony. The approach to all of these technologies will take in to consideration best practices for business continuity and compliance.

European Electronique's involvement extends beyond that of the classroom, ensuring staff and students integrate with the building and its systems. The college's underlying goal is to deliver 'Excellence and Success for Learners'. These developments will mark a big step forward in delivering this aim and make the College an exciting place to work and study.

European Electronique, the market leader in delivering ICT to academies and the education sector, won the public sector contract against stiff competition. Their dedicated team of engineers and consultants will play a leading role in the transition from the College's existing three sites into the new purpose-built campus.



New college building plans



Building plans for one of three campuses

Amir continued, "We chose European Electronique as our ICT Partner as they have an excellent understanding of our needs and an in-depth knowledge of the education market. What really impressed us was their approach towards working with us. They operate in true partnership, as an extension of the college's IT team, and are always on hand if we need advice and support."

"ICT is really transforming the way teachers teach and students learn and we're delighted to be at the forefront of this revolution," said Yolanta Gill, managing director of European Electronique. "Sandwell College is a very exciting project and we're pleased to be bringing the latest in ICT to benefit both students and teachers."