

West London Free School



European Electronique to design and implement entire ICT environment for West London Free School

Background

European Electronique, a provider of ICT solutions to academies and free schools, has been awarded a five-year contract to design, implement and manage the entire ICT requirements for one of the first free schools to open in the UK - the West London Free School in Hammersmith.

Due to open later this year, the West London Free School is viewed by many as the flagship project of Michael Gove's education reforms and was the first free school to sign a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

The latest figures show that 281 groups have applied to set up their own free schools in 2012 and the West London Free School will be one of the first to open in September of this year

Toby Young comments: "The West London Free School will provide a traditional, grammar-school curriculum to a genuinely comprehensive group of children and in order to do that effectively it will need to be as imaginative and innovative as possible in its approach to teaching and learning. That means an effective ICT system is absolutely essential. We have chosen European Electronique as our strategic ICT partner as the company demonstrated a very clear understanding of our school and the challenges we face and put forward a highly innovative solution that represents excellent value for money".

European Electronique will provide an exciting and innovative ICT system that reflects the school's wish to have ICT integrated within the curriculum and to specialise in music. In striking a balance between on-site and off-site 'cloud' services, European Electronique will be breaking new ground by implementing one of the first Microsoft Office 365 deployments in Britain's schools. Office 365, a key component of Microsoft's 'School in a Box', will provide the school with the Office suite from the 'cloud' and will include email, office web applications, storage and SharePoint services. Staff and pupils will benefit from "anywhere & anytime" access to both applications and data. As well as convenience, the technology will bring significant efficiencies and cost savings in storage, processing and management requirements.



Yolanta Gill, CEO at European Electronique, comments: "It is very exciting to be involved in one of the first free schools to open in England. We believe all eyes will be on the school's development and ICT will play an important role in helping the school achieve its goals. Working closely with the Microsoft team and implementing one of the first instances of Office 365 for education underpins our innovative approach and determination to push the boundaries of new technologies."

Steve Beswick, Head Microsoft UK Education stated: "We have been working closely with the West London Free School helping develop innovative thinking around new delivery models for ICT. We are delighted that European Electronique has been awarded this project and we will be supporting them all the way."