



Transformation Programme Case Study



Microsoft



St Edmund's College may be the oldest Catholic School in England, it is still following many traditions including a prayer before class, but their IT Strategy is not focused on the past. The new 1GB fibre line installed in May 2019 will present new possibilities via the cloud, allowing teachers and students to capitalise on the collaborative tools available through Microsoft 365, preparing students for the world of work.

Solid Foundations

As a traditional institution the College admit they won't always be amongst the early adopters when it comes to new technologies and they are less likely than others to just follow the crowd. Their approach is to take time to investigate new solutions and ensure they can demonstrate a positive impact on outcomes for staff and students.

The IT team, having done their research, identified the potential of the cloud and Office 365 over a year ago, but they recognised there was work to do to ensure the right foundations were in place before they introduced the solution to their educators. Since then they have invested in the infrastructure to support mobile technologies and May 2019 the final obstacle will be overcome when they upgrade to a 1GB fibre line.

Top tip: A cloud-based solution is only as good as your internet line and infrastructure. Ensure these are suitable to support your cloud strategy before migrating as a bad experience for users will make adoption even more difficult.

With the new internet line in place we can look forward to our Microsoft 365 journey. We know it won't happen overnight, but we expect to see the use of the cloud improving productivity and outcomes throughout the College, not just in teaching and learning.

Karl Fry, Director of ICT, Computing & E-learning



St Edmund's College, Ware

- Independent co-educational boarding and day school.
- 850 students aged 3-18
- Case study date: June 2019

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Migrating abroad

Migrating your files to the cloud can be compared to migrating your life to another country. Your staff will be used to the current way of living (working) and nobody likes change, unless you can see a positive reason to make a change, just like moving to a country for a warmer climate or different pace of life.

So how do we make that transition easier for staff?

Structure: You wouldn't move to another country if you didn't have a home for your belongings, so why would you move your files to the cloud if the best structure wasn't in place for you to save your work.

Awareness: Staff will be more acceptable to change if they know why they should change/move (remember that warmer climate). The College will have Tablet Academy deliver 'Art of the Possible' workshops for staff to be sure they can see the benefits.

Timeline: You wouldn't move to a new house overnight, so don't expect staff to move files and change the way they work in a day either. Plan a migration schedule alongside a training plan with clearly communicated deadlines for all elements.

During Summer 2019, St Edmund's will be investing time to identify the best structure for their cloud storage, whilst exploring the suitability of Teams over a pure SharePoint solution, ready to introduce to staff at the beginning of the new Academic Year.

Top tip: Turn local storage to read only for a period of time so staff can access files but are then forced to save to the new cloud environment.

The start of a new era

With a new Headmaster starting in September 2019, the College is about to start a new chapter in their long-standing history. This timely appointment will coincide with the introduction of a new future proof IT Strategy, moving all possible solutions to cloud-based solutions to reduce cost, increase cybersecurity and improve productivity throughout the college. Included in this programme will be the investigation of Microsoft 365 licensing and the use of Intune and Autopilot to manage devices via the cloud.

The 2019/2020 Academic Year will see the introduction of Office 365, this will drive change within the College and will require an investment in training and support for staff, a justifiable investment if we are to ensure the College continues to excel in this digital revolution.

Top tip: Admin and classroom support roles will all be affected by the changes made. Be sure to provide these groups with appropriate training and include them in your wider project communications.



Karl Fry, Director of ICT, Computing & E-learning

- *Moving to the Cloud*
- *Adopting Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Intune and Autopilot*
- *Updating leased line to 1GB*
- *Considering leasing new devices to help with budgets*
 - *Which could enable the College to update staff laptops and windows devices*

Microsoft Seeding Programme

This case study was produced as a result of the Microsoft Seeding Programme. The Seeding Programme is designed to assist institutions to evaluate their current use of technology in order to create a 3-year strategy. For further information, or to apply for your school to receive this support free of charge please visit the web address below or call 01952 567450.