

Westonbirt School

Supporting inspiring young minds with technology



Located near the National Arboretum in leafy Gloucestershire, Westonbirt School is an independent school for girls. As well as a strong emphasis on academic achievement, Westonbirt also focusses on developing young minds from the ages of 3 to 18 through art, drama, music and sport.

With some 500 users in total it falls to Technical Services Manager, Peter Wilcock to ensure that students and staff alike have the right technology infrastructure to help the school achieve its mission to inspire young minds.

The school uses the Microsoft platform and runs the Microsoft Office Suite with SQL, SharePoint and Office 365 to run its day to day activities for both administration and teaching activities.

Westonbirt has also taken advantage of the Microsoft Imagine Academy (formerly IT Academy) which provides a training pack of courses and tools to enable the school's students to gain fundamental technology skills through digital curriculum learning as well as IT qualifications to get them workplace ready. Staff at the school also use the Imagine Academy for their own professional development and certification.

More effective learning and teaching



"Making use of Pugh's partnership with IAM Cloud and their hosted single sign-on service for Office 365 meant that we could take advantage of the free Microsoft Office 365 offer without the pain of the annual rollover to pupil and staff accounts. The whole process from licensing to implementation was quick and effective."

"One of the extra benefits of having Office 365 is that our students and staff can use the full suite of Office programmes on their own smart phones and home devices like iPads, laptops and PCs, at no extra charge. With more and more students and staff bringing their own devices to school, this facility provides total learning continuity regardless of where they are and regardless of which platform they are using."

Peter continues, "With the use of iPads in the classroom, teachers now have greater flexibility in the way they teach. No longer do they need to book special suites to teach in. This means that we can use our space more effectively both saving costs and, more importantly, providing a richer learning experience for our students."

Staff at Westonbirt also benefit from the freedom the technology gives them. Using Office 365 with Microsoft OneDrive cloud file storage and sharing they are able for instance, to start preparing PowerPoints for the next day's teaching on a desktop at school, edit on their iPad at home and then display it wherever and whenever they choose.

Cost effective supported solutions



With so many users and different demands on the system daily, Peter inevitably has to deal with some challenging technical queries so really appreciates the rapid response he gets from Pugh Computer's support team.

"Having dealt with lots of technology companies, I am always delighted by the speed and effectiveness of the support and response I get from Pugh Computers."

Peter continues: "Software licensing is notoriously complex. Pugh helped us to opt for the most effective use of Microsoft products through careful licensing choices. As a result, we can allocate spend across the school more effectively."

"Whether the query is to do with technology or licensing, they provide effective answers and helpful direction so that the school's IT work can really support effective learning outcomes for our students as well as the teaching and administration needs of our staff."



How can we help you?

You have heard how we have helped Peter and Westonbirt School deliver cost effective technology enabled teaching.

Whether you need help identifying and implementing potential products and solutions to enhance your learning and teaching or need advice and support on how to migrate from on-premises to the cloud, Pugh can help.

To find out how we can add value to your IT solutions, why not call us today? You will find a warm, responsive and informed welcome waiting.

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