

Lymm High School - Case Study

Client: Lymm High School

Location: Lymm, Cheshire

Market Sector: Education



Introduction

Since its Founding in 1814, Lymm High School has been the back bone of the community, with generations of alumni populating the local village and surrounding areas. Since becoming a comprehensive in 1985 the school has been ever changing, striving to maintain a high quality of education for all that attend. The school is now recognised for excellence in language and sport and achieved “outstanding” in the recent Ofsted inspection. PW Comms team have 5 graduates from Lymm High School, all relishing the opportunity to give something back to the school where it all began.

To uphold the schools standard of excellence and meet the ICT Council review, some changes were necessary to the current infrastructure in some classrooms. A development plan by the schools IT department carried out in April 10 outlined the necessary upgrades and additions to the current infrastructure for compliance to the Council review. A competitive tender process was carried out by the school and due to the competitive price, quality of service and the experience of other high scale projects, PW Comms were chosen to provide the solution.

Works Completed

The first project was to transform an existing classroom into a modern Language suite with 32 CAT 5e data points. Before any work could be carried out, PW Comms removed redundant legacy cabling and upgraded the existing Comms cabinet. PW Comms also supplied 2 HP Pro Curve Layer 3 data switches to meet the additional demands on the network. Cat 5e cables were installed throughout the room, routed through existing dado trunking back to the Comms cabinet in a nearby office.

A student services office was created by installing 18 new CAT 5e data points into an existing classroom. The challenge facing this project was the distance between the classroom and the Comms cabinet the most cost effective and efficient solution was to route the cabling into a wall cabinet, then install a copper uplink to the main cabinet. Copper was used over a fibre uplink because it provided ample bandwidth for the demand, at a much lower cost.

The last room conversion posed similar challenges as the 20 new CAT5e data points could only be connected to a comms cabinet on the floor below. Through articulate design, the cables were installed successfully with least interference to the surroundings.

To enhance the learning environment in the maths and geography rooms, the traditional whiteboards were complimented with SMART 660 interactive whiteboards, Epsom EBX7 ceiling projectors and 30w NOVO speakers. All were installed to BECTA standards using Loxit ceiling

brackets and lanyards. PW Comms also provided the electrical power points for these units as the engineers are qualified for both data and electrical installations.

In one of the geography rooms there was a request for an interactive board that would cater for 2 simultaneous users. PW Comms supplied and installed the Hitachi FX DUO interactive board with an EBX7 Epsom Projector and 30w NOVO speakers. These touch-enabled display boards are designed to give you access to digital materials at the touch of your hand, rather than the click of a mouse. This interactive technology transforms learning facilities, enabling more interaction between pupils and staff creating a more engaging learning environment.

All cabling design and installation work was carried out to the IEC 14763 European installation standards including the ISO 9001 quality assurance mark, which PW Comms is accredited. All work is certified and guaranteed 12months.

The installations were a great success, but not without their challenges. Last minute changes meant engineers could no longer work to original cable diagrams, but utilising their experience and close liaison with the school to get the work done within the challenging timescales. The school over the summer is a very busy site, with all types of trades carrying out work to meet the term deadline. The flexibility of the PW comms engineers meant they could work in and around other trades, and at evenings and weekends to ensure the projects would be completed on time and to budget.

Lymm High school has ongoing refurbishments in the pipeline, and we will look forward to using PW Comms for future work developing our relationship with them to continue the development of the school and the enhanced learning experience of the students”.



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