



Caldicot School

Located in Monmouthshire, Wales, Caldicot School has over 1,500 students aged between 11 and 18. Like so many children, the pupils at Caldicot School seem to know considerably more about computers than most people three times their age and they have an insatiable appetite for learning more.

Mr Nathan Small, Finance and Support Services Manager at the school, recognises this passion and the need to teach pupils the IT skills that are essential for every school-leaver in today's IT-driven world.

The Challenge:

In the past three years Mr Small has successfully increased the number of computers available to pupils at the school from 100 to 350, resulting in the current pupil:PC ratio of 4:1. However, the computers were obtained from a wide variety of sources and all came with different software and operating systems, often resulting in incompatibility issues. Mr Small explains:

“We had so many different computer suites, some with Windows 95, others with Windows 98 and the latest ones with Windows XP, that we were spending hours trying to install new software for just one class, let alone across the school. We didn't have sufficient funds to solve this issue by replacing the oldest Windows 95 computers, so we needed a way to make what equipment we had work efficiently for us whilst raising funds for new machines.”

The Solution:

Faced with problems so familiar to many schools in the country, Mr Small turned to a local IT support company, A2Z Computing, for guidance. Following the company's advice, Ranger for Networks software was installed throughout the school. This solved the school's incompatibility issue by enabling all computers to run on one, centrally controlled network.

Ranger for Networks successfully provided the relatively inexpensive bridge that Mr Small needed to coordinate the disparate IT network while he sourced affordable replacements for the out-of-date equipment.

Ranger Reseller: A2Z Computing Ltd

Software: Ranger for Networks



Benefits to the school...

- **Cost savings**

The installation of Ranger for Networks brought with it an unexpected advantage, as Nathan explains:

“Whilst we knew that Ranger software would centralise our IT network, thus helping us to manage PC configuration and the installation of new software, we didn’t realise that it would also help us save money, which we have put towards buying new equipment.”

This cost saving has been made possible by reducing the number of IT technician visits to the school and also by using Ranger React to switch off workstations automatically at the end of the day, thereby reducing electricity costs.

- **Frees up technical staff to concentrate on improving IT**

Having an efficient, centralised computer network has also enabled IT personnel to use time formerly spent addressing problems, on proactively seeking out ways in which to improve the school's IT service.

- **Enables teachers to focus on teaching**

Ranger for Networks also ensures that teaching staff maximise the value of their time in class. Teachers no longer waste time waiting for programmes to download or dealing with individual computer issues. Instead they can set up PCs and customise desktops at the beginning of the class, locate files quickly and easily, and work safely in the knowledge that pupils' access to external information sources is monitored and safeguarded.

Moving Forward...

Mr Small is committed to the ongoing improvement of IT at Caldicot School, with aims to further increase the number of workstations and electronic whiteboards, and improve pupils' access to technology.

There are of course financial implications associated with these expensive plans, but Mr Small is optimistic that Ranger will help address these.

For example, he recently purchased Ranger Print Manager software to monitor and control print jobs across the network. This, he hopes, will help to reduce printing costs – savings which will be channelled into funds for new equipment.


One challenge that will prove tricky, even for the resourceful Nathan, is the lack of space available in the existing school buildings to house more IT equipment. However, he remains up-beat, saying:

“We’ve also purchased Ranger Outpost - due to be activated imminently, which will enable staff, pupils and parents to access the network remotely. This will significantly increase the flexibility and reach of Caldicot School’s IT network without the need for a single brick!”

Mrs S Gwyer Roberts, Headteacher, is delighted with the substantial developments in IT provision across the school. “Mr Small has brought Caldicot School into the 21st century with the introduction of enhanced ICT provision. It is having a powerful effect on the quality of teaching and learning. We look forward to further initiatives to substantiate IT across the school and the curriculum.”

To find out more about how Ranger Software could benefit your school:

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Mr Nathan Small,
Finance and Support
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