

Microsoft Acer Case Study v1: Cranford Community College

Cranford Community College in West London, has undergone a technology overhaul by installing 720 Acer XC-705 desktops and KA240 monitors in to classrooms, IT Suites and the new Innovation Centre.

In early 2015, Cranford Community College Senior Leadership Team were exploring their IT strategy for the school and how they could position themselves as a school with premium, leading edge technologies.

At the time, the IT contract was coming up for renewal and the Senior Leadership Team wanted to understand how they could get an added value service from their hardware supplier.

Following a dedicated meeting with Acer UK,

Alan Fraser, Assistant Head Teacher, proposed the installation of Acer desktops and monitors across the school. “We had got together earlier in the year, and felt the school was missing out somewhere, which ultimately lead to decision number 1, stand out as a leading school for IT equipment”, Alan continued, “we felt, following our meeting at Acer, they could offer us more than just hardware”.



Acer for Education

CRANFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Evaluation process included both the Senior Leadership Team, who were pioneering the transformation, and the school's IT teachers who had certain criteria they felt it was important to meet.



As a community school, the campus is used regularly by people from the local area and businesses, as well as students and teachers both during and outside of school hours. Due to the vast array of people using the machines, it was essential that the desktops offered a good level of performance with high specification processors,

and an understanding that whatever desktop you were using, it would perform identically.

“It was important that the technology serves a need and could equip students for the future”, said Barbara Lodge, Head of IT, “it was necessary that we had a consistency throughout the whole school, which allows for greater understanding”.

These factors meant choosing Microsoft based products was an obvious choice, being the industry standard. The school wanted to feel assured they were giving their students the best devices on an operating system they would use every day in their further education and working lives.

The full roll-out of the desktops and monitors was completed over the summer holidays, and Autumn 2016 was the first term that students had full use of all devices.

The legacy and understanding that surrounds Microsoft meant that it was a natural progression to the Acer XC-705 desktop, staff felt confident

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in using the machines and the compatibility with existing resources was not an issue.

The introduction of Windows 10 has brought back a more familiar interface and staff are encouraged to have training and support where necessary, to ensure everyone feels confident when teaching.

The consistency across the school has already played a pivotal role in learning. The improved boot up, loading and login times have allowed lessons to avoid any unnecessary interruptions, and the wider screens have increased student productivity.

“Students can get on with work more quickly and can be more productive. Having multiple items and programs open at once also helps with this and saves the time spent flicking backwards and forwards” says Barbara.

The sleek, stylish design of the XC-705 desktop and KA monitor has also been important, “when the students come in to the room, and everything



looks tidy and new, they keep it that way”, comments Barbara. The Acer desktop also has easy front access ports, which is much easier for students.

Another integral part of the journey to the school becoming a leader of IT, is the Innovation Centre. This is a new area of the school that has been built specially to continue their forward thinking IT offering. The school are looking forward to launching this and opening it before the end of the Christmas term.

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