

# Digital Transformation at Cirrus MAT

## A 1:1 DEVICE PROGRAMME, A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP & A PANDEMIC

Made possible by Joskos Solutions and Acer for Education

### Creating Equal Access to Learning

In the midst of the COVID19 pandemic, the Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, a trust of 5 schools in south-west London was on a digital transformation journey with Joskos and Acer. At the heart was a vision that all students would have equal access to learning. Alongside this the Trust set an aim to improve the learning outcomes for all their pupils and the collaboration between schools in the trust through the innovative use of technology.

With Joskos this led to the design of a programme that would see 750 Acer devices delivered to pupils in key year groups across the Trust allowing them to benefit from online teaching and learning during the pandemic.

*"We needed technology the children could use across the curriculum, quickly, and for regular access to blended learning. This became more obvious during lockdown, as children didn't have access to technology at home. The children need to be using technology daily because this is something they will need throughout - and when they leave - education. This is necessary for their future."*

**Angela Briggs, Trust Digital Learning Coordinator**



### A Device for Every Learner

A key part of the vision created through a collaboration with Joskos and the Cirrus Trust leadership was to provide every student at the trust high-quality personalised learning experiences. It was recognised that flexible access to a device for every learner would be essential to achieve this. The need for equality of access was highlighted further by the pandemic.



## Rolling out Acer Windows Notebook

Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, Acer and Joskos all recognised that effective change management needed to be put in place. Joskos appointed a project manager to the task of making the devices student-ready so that they would be in the hands of learners as quickly as possible after unboxing. The 1:1 Acer TravelMate Windows Notebook devices were quickly and strategically rolled out to pupils in all schools to ensure continuity of learning and student well-being (parental and student feedback).

## The Joskos Key Factors for Success

- Help resources for pupils and parents including videos and step by step guides; for example, how to look after the device and how to access and use Microsoft Teams
- Training for teachers before and after rollout to develop understanding of online learning
- A digital champion programme to develop onsite experts and ensure sustainable sources of knowledge
- Ongoing IT support from Joskos to ensure speedy response to requests and challenges
- A personalised Trust landing page on booting up to help students find the relevant sites and resources quickly and easily
- Strategic consultancy and guidance for senior leaders on how to innovate learning across the curriculum from a digital perspective and how to make full use of the Acer STEM Training Sponsorship

Training the Digital Lead teacher in each school on different EdTech innovations and how they might be used in conjunction with the Acer Travelmates was particularly effective in accelerating teaching and learning.

## Feedback from the People who Count

Feedback from the pupils has been fantastic. Below are real quotes from real pupils.

"I like using my Acer Windows Notebook because I can learn at my own speed."

"Having my own Windows Notebook is good because I can find information really quickly."

"I feel more independent and confident because we get to bring our Acer Windows Notebooks home. We have the responsibility to bring them back into school."



## The Immediate Impact

The schools in the trust all saw immediate benefits from the Acer devices:

- Teachers saw disadvantaged pupils working remotely and engaging on their Acer Windows Notebook where previously they had found it difficult to access the cloud platform at home
- Pupils were more enthusiastic about their online learning because they felt empowered by the Acer devices meaning more engaged learners
- Teachers have much wider access to quality resources for remote learning
- Teachers are able to differentiate work and create a more personalised approach to learning which resulted in greater engagement from the learners

Through the regular use of online assessment tools such as Microsoft Forms, teachers marking workload has reduced and students are benefiting from instant feedback.

*"The CPD programme with Joskos has meant we've been able to train the rest of our staff to realise the potential of the Acer Windows Notebooks and to use them to the best of their capacity for enhanced learning."*

*Trust Digital Learning Coordinator*

## Choosing the Right Device

The Cirrus Education Trust needed to decide on the 1:1 equipment to be deployed. It needed to be appropriate and durable for primary age children whilst also being cost effective and capable of retaining the upgrades in online software the Trust had put in place and may opt for in the future. Focused on the goal to find the best device for the trust's teaching and learning vision the Joskos team carried out an in-depth exploration of the market.

Ultimately Acer Travelmate B3 was chosen because it has the following key features:

- A tough, ultra-durable design that is suited to younger users and can be easily kept in a school backpack
- Long battery life and quick recharge so the devices could be used throughout the day
- Mechanically anchored keys and spill-proof keyboard
- Fast connection speeds and great compatibility with Microsoft 365 for Education
- ComfyView matt LCD screen
- Competitive pricing
- Reliability Promise – ability to claim a full refund of price paid if device develops a fault and is repaired under warranty

In addition, a key factor for Joskos and the Cirrus Primary Trust when selecting Acer as their partner was the Acer Stem Reward Programme.

## Acer STEM Reward Programme



A huge benefit of the STEM Reward Programme is their sponsorship of Continuous Professional Development and promotion of opportunities for students to develop skills in STEM subjects. This was made possible by Acer's commitment to sponsor £500 of STEM rewards for every 25 laptops purchased. Consequently, the Joskos Education Team was able to work with the Cirrus Trust to design a bespoke, comprehensive, high quality STEM CPD programme.

The first key objective of the programme was to enable teachers to effectively utilise the devices in their classrooms to integrate STEM across the curriculum. This significantly developed student problem solving skills, critical thinking, digital collaboration and creativity.

Another key objective of the CPD programme was to develop capacity within the trust. Expert trainers from Joskos identified a team of Digital Leads and developed key knowledge, skills and understanding about the potential of technology to deepen learning. There is now a Digital Lead in each school to support teachers to grow in confidence, identify the potential and integrate technology into their everyday practice using Acer devices.

The Acer STEM Rewards programme give schools an invaluable opportunity to claim funded support, free onsite workshops, a huge range of teaching and learning resources and cashback on modern Acer Windows devices. There are additional benefits.

- Rewards up to the value of £500 with every classroom set (25+ units) of Acer devices
- Entry into a Prize Draw for students to win in a 2-day residential "Cyber & Space" STEM trip at an RAF Museum, inclusive of overnight stay
- Between £50 and £150 cashback per device via Acer Upgrade Rewards

For more information about the Acer Programme visit <https://acerforeducation.acer.com>





## The long-term benefits

The Cirrus Trust has achieved many long-term goals through its 1:1 device programme:

- The Acer Stem Reward Training ensures a sustainable staff digital knowledge bank within each school
- Student digital literacy, problem solving skills, critical thinking and collaboration has risen and is predicted to continue in this upward direction based on initial assessments of student STEM skill acquisition
- Lessons are of a higher standard and are designed with greater interactivity and enhanced formative assessment
- Teachers and pupils have instant access to content that can be used at a whole class level
- Guaranteed pupil access to devices has led to more creativity and deeper pupil driven learning across the curriculum
- Improved parental satisfaction (survey data)
- Reduction in teacher workload and administrative tasks including inputting student results or progress data into MIS

## Achieving the Trust's goals

Through working in close partnership with Joskos and Acer, Cirrus Primary Academy Trust has achieved its goals and greatly empowered the teachers and learners within its schools. This has been made possible by a joint understanding – that all pupils can benefit from the ways in which technology provides a seamless approach to learning at home and at school.

The Cirrus Primary Academy Trust has clearly demonstrated what is possible when schools proactively address the challenge of access to technology and place pupils and their learning at the core of any investment in technology.

## Find Out More

*Joskos is passionate about empowering education through technology. We offer strategic sessions for leadership teams to define the school vision and identify the ways in which a learning driven investment in technology can lead to truly innovative teaching and learning.*

*If you would like to discuss your school's Digital Transformation strategy and vision for learning and opportunity to benefit from the Acer Reward Programme, please get in touch by completing our online form; sending an email to [solutions@joskos.com](mailto:solutions@joskos.com) or call Joskos on 0845 3700038.*