

## Case Studies

# Oriel Technology College

Oriel Specialist Mathematics and Computing College is a forward thinking dynamic secondary learning establishment which benefits from a positive leadership team focused on delivering "Excellence in Learning" with an "Every Child Matters" attitude. It's a community minded establishment that stays active well into the evening (the site manager can often be seen locking up around 10 pm.)

Oriel's ICT Manager Mark Woolner takes up the story; "The challenge when I first started was reliability, I saw the all too familiar 25 - 30 beige boxes, crammed into every room, with a mismatch of CRT monitors, keyboards and mice. With each station pumping out around 1KW of heat, the cooling and heating systems were also suffering."

Prior to achieving specialist status the college had suffered with its ICT systems. According to Mark it has had to deal with a legacy of "mend and make do" which had resulted in poor quality PC's, a poor attitude towards maintenance, and heavy handed use by students. This legacy had left its mark and staff came to expect, "Do Not Use" and "Out Of Order" signs!

Mark continued; "I first worked at the school for 2 days a week, which meant I was always playing catch-up with a lot of time spent investigating faults caused by students either "sticking things IN" ( pens, paper, sandwiches) or "taking things OUT" (network, monitor & power cables along with CD drive belts). The network would often be taken down because a student, unable to see through the spaghetti junction of wiring, had inadvertently caused a loop back by plugging a network cable into two network points!

"When I first saw Kira Supplies stand at the BETT show I immediately thought of how this could reduce the number of "things" students could "stick IN" and "take OUT" of my stressed PCs; they would only have a keyboard, monitor, and mouse to use. What's more a number of the other issues also seemed to be addressed by the system, more desk space, less wires, less heat, etc.



Before and after pictures showing the transformation of one of Oriel's ICT suites.



"Discussions were held with members of the Leadership team and Kira Supplies was invited to Norfolk to demonstrate the system. At once staff could see the benefits of Multi-seat computing and with the Director of Specialist Status holding the purse strings, the cost saving meant that we could achieve our goals within budget."

After taking the decision to begin systematically replacing their standalone PC's with Ecoware the versatility and performance have been a revelation. Mark told us a little more, "Students were amazed by the 20" wide screen technology we had employed. Up to now students had been using 17" CRT monitors or the 19" monitors that were



Close up of one Ecoware island at Oriel

My recommendation is for all school ICT managers to book an appointment with Kira Supplies.

set to a screen resolution of 1240 X 768. Now they are seeing the big picture for the first time, students were able to view PowerPoint and Flash Animations, create large images in Pro-desktop and 2D Design along with full width spreadsheets."

Asked upon reflection to comment he went on to say "We started our journey with Kira Supplies back in March 2008. The whole IT department were very excited and to be honest so was I but at the same time slightly nervous.

Oriel needed change and I felt Ecoware was the vehicle to do it. At first I thought I was going to have to do a lot of work to prove the concept to some of the college's less willing users, despite my reservations I was wrong. The first student system was placed in a room alongside existing Dell 210 Optiplexes with 17" TFT. It ran side by side for a week. Then we started to get complaints..... They wanted to know when we were going to take the Dells out and fit the rest of the Ecoware units!"

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