

NEWS RELEASE

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IT's all about family planning in Leicestershire

A Leicestershire college is on the brink of creating a 'family' network by cascading an IT infrastructure which will be adopted by three tiers of schools in the same catchment area.

Longslade Community College in Birstall called in IT specialist Innovit to install Microsoft's SharePoint portal server system as part of an IT strategy to create the Longslade Family of Schools Portal.

The college has been liaising with 11 other local primary, middle and high schools in the area to create a collective IT vision which will ensure pupils will use the same technology platform throughout their education.

If all the schools become part of the family, potentially as many as 5,000 students in the area will be using the same infrastructure, which can only be beneficial for the consistency of their development throughout the education system according to assistant principal, Rachel Gordon.

"A collaborative approach makes perfect sense for all the schools involved as we all have the same vested interested in delivering the very highest standards of education," she said.

“One of the cornerstones of our IT vision is to make the transition between the different tiers of education as seamless as possible for the students.

“If students are already familiar with the learning platforms when they move up to the next school, then it makes the next stage of their education simpler because they are not having to learn new systems on top of the demands that the curriculum will place on them.

“Ultimately, our family of schools will be able to achieve more collectively than each of us could individually.”

Innovit installed the server at the college last summer and has supported teaching and ancillary staff in the training on applications such as Class Server.

Longslade Community College was originally aiming to roll out the family initiative as quickly as possible but is now keen to double its efforts after the glowing feedback from those within the college that have migrated over to the new system.

Mrs Gordon added: “Everyone who has switched to the new system is impressed with it and can see where it adds value to what they are trying achieve.

“SharePoint and Class Server have already been a revelation within our college and Innovit has been inspirational in originally showing us what was possible.

“They then worked with us to install it and are now providing training and support to ensure all our staff gets up to speed as quickly and easily as possible.”

Innovit’s managing director, Andy Dent, is keen to encourage more schools to embrace the family ethos.

“Longslade Community College is demonstrating a high level of joined-up thinking by looking at how the IT infrastructure can support students all the way through their education,” he said.

“The portal system it will roll out is as future proof as any technology can be, so when upgrades and new tools are introduced over the next few years they should seamlessly integrate into the system.”

For more information about the services that Innovit provides, please visit www.innovit.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Innovit is a Midlands based provider of IT solutions for professional services and education. The Innovit team work in partnership with client companies to maximise the potential of technology with the businesses, helping them to work smarter not harder.

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