

Schools Achieving Success Wireless access

Djanogly City Technology College

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Mike Butler, Deputy Principal,
Djanogly City Technology
College

Bringing learning to life

There's a dream shared by staff at Djanogly City Technology College to establish a world-class centre of learning where the aspirations of students are lifted and the benefit of 'anytime-anywhere' learning using optimum technology is felt. The reality is that this multi-racial school is located at the core of Nottingham's inner city, where the hazards of life in a neighbourhood blighted with significant deprivation pervade.

Despite such difficulties, the determined spirit of staff and pupils alike has seen this vision materialise each day. "Through the use of information and communication technology, we've enhanced the learning experience for our pupils," explains Mike Butler, Deputy Principal at specialist school Djanogly (pronounced 'Janoglee'). "Every teacher is equipped with a Toshiba laptop, enabling them to create and deliver multi-dimensional lectures that captivate the students more than traditional styles of teaching ever could."

Lively Lessons

There's no doubt this new teaching technique is popular. As staff become more acquainted with the capabilities of their new notebooks, their audience is enjoying a style of teaching that is fresh, innovative and stimulating. "Even teachers who were once self confessed techno-phobes now prepare entertaining lectures featuring film footage, interviews, photos and graphics," beams Mike. Consequently, truancy levels are low and exam results are gratifying.

Connectivity and mobility

State-of-the-art technology permeates throughout the entire campus, attended by 1040 students, representative of the social mix in the area. The wireless LAN network installed by one of Toshiba's accredited Education Resellers, Eurotechnix, provides staff with instant access to key information anywhere on site, without having to find a plug socket and a cable connection. Student's timetable, home contact details, college news and emails are all at the teacher's fingertips, saving time and inconvenience. "It's amazing how a little technology has made a big difference to everyday tasks. Administrative work is reduced to a minimum, and overall communication amongst staff has improved considerably", enthuses Mr. Butler.

"The days of staff queuing to check emails on only one desktop are gone. The slimline laptops are so much more practical than bulky desktops, and they're certainly a lot lighter to carry than text books!"

A strong relationship

Len Daniels, Business Development Manager at Toshiba, has been responsible for developing the partnership with the school for its ICT strategy: "It's been a learning and sharing experience for both parties. They've taught us about their needs and ambitions as a school, and we've introduced them to the new capabilities of technology today and the benefits available now and in the future." As well as notebooks, Toshiba provided most of



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the network infrastructure such as the server farm and Pentium desktops. The system also benefits from discreet structured cabling throughout and a 2mbps broadband Internet connection.

Toshiba was selected as the school's technology partner a year ago, because of its commitment to and understanding of the educational sector, plus its wide range of products and services. The company has devised a ResearchEd strategy based around three critical principles, known as Toshiba's 3 R's for ICT:

- a) Raising levels of achievement in schools
- b) Removing the bureaucratic load from the teacher
- c) Reducing exclusion

These echo government policy and specifically the white paper 'Schools Achieving Success'. Djanogly have fully utilised their use of the notebook technology to meet these aims and will be working with Toshiba to show the result of their research into the benefits gained.

Aiming high

Currently the desktop/student ratio is 3:1. Whilst this would satisfy even the most forward-thinking school's technological appetite, Djanogly is hungry for more. The ultimate aim is for every student to have individual remote access by 2005, which should please the Secretary of State for Education, Estelle Morris, who has always championed the wireless approach.

State of the art technology within reach

Undeterred by budgetary restrictions, the current array of technology became affordable for the college thanks to Toshiba's leasing options. "Because of the incredible rate of technology change, we felt that leasing was the most sensible option. This way, we can afford cutting edge products used in the real business world, thereby giving our pupils the advantage," adds Mike Butler.

The raw truth

When questioned why he feels so passionate about the role of technology in the educational environment, Mike Butler does not hold back: "We want to give these kids the best possible life chances. Through technology, we've created a more dynamic approach to the curriculum that has helped raise pupil achievement and motivation. The wide-ranging learning resources available to us now such as the Internet and our own Intranet site provide unlimited learning opportunities."

If proof was needed that this school's clear-cut strategy is working, here are the facts: In 1998, Ofsted announced Djanogly CTC as the most improved state school in England. The percentage of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*- C grades was a staggering 23 percentage points above the average for Nottingham City in 2001 (a 9 point improvement on last year), and the school is currently oversubscribed by 2:1 as parents clamour to enrol their children.

For further information on this success story and Toshiba's range of technology, please contact Toshiba on 01932 822814 or email educationPCs@toshiba.co.uk

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