



William Morris Sixth Form Hammersmith and Fulham

The customer

William Morris Sixth Form, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, was established in 1994 as the country's first school for 16-19 year olds and it has quickly established itself as an important provider of post-16 education in West London and beyond.

Working in partnership with secondary schools in the borough William Morris Sixth Form also offers places to a wide range of students from elsewhere across London, with students currently joining from over one hundred previous schools or colleges.

Graded "outstanding" in their most recent Ofsted inspection in February 2010, for the second consecutive time, William Morris Sixth Form is a special place where expectations are high for both student and staff performance alike.

William Morris Sixth Form prides itself on concern and care for the individual. Add this to an exciting range of courses, very good facilities and learning resources plus an enrichment programme offering opportunities for personal development, all backed by a strong tutorial system based on the best sixth form practice and the enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of their staff and you can see why the school has been so successful.

The challenge

During the recent Building for Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) Ian Barnwell, Director of Learning Technology at William Morris Sixth Form was part of the Local Authority Bid Evaluation Team. Whilst the programme was still live, a great deal of time had to be spent attending meetings around the borough.

"Over a period of five weeks I was rarely in the office and needed a remote desktop solution that would allow me to not just answer emails, but to keep an eye on the systems so the day-to-day running of the school was not effected in anyway."

Being in so many different locations, meant that it was not easy to get access to a network.

Some meeting rooms had network connectivity, but it was not really possible to get set up in each place due to access security, time pressures and network points.

3G was considered, but due to previous poor experience, and the data capacity needed to run a full windows sytem and deliver an effective remote desktop solution, it was not a viable option.

Highlights

Objectives and usage

Remote and nomadic mobile working

Remote working

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Solution

High quality mobile access to LAN and Internet delivered via 4G USB dongle with user's standard laptop, connecting to UKB's licensed 4G wireless spectrum from our local base station.

Benefits

- Seamless, secure and reliable connectivity
- High capacity to support bandwidth intensive applications
- Full access to remote LAN resources and Internet access
- Removed need for dedicated infrastructure
- Improved productivity and reduced overheads

William Morris Sixth Form Case Study

The solution

Having been involved with the Sacred Heart School, who run a virtualised desktop system, Ian wanted to test drive a similar solution that offered the real world speed and capacity required for both staff and pupils accessing information from home and on the move.

A colleague from The Bridge Academy, who was already trialling UK Broadband's 4G service for the pupil referral unit, suggested using the same solution to address the problem of fast, reliable, high capacity access.

Utilising a secure wireless 4G USB dongle, plugged into a laptop and connecting to UK Broadband's wireless base station already in place in Hammersmith and Fulham, Ian was able to set up wireless remote access to his desktop.

Using his laptop to connect to the Internet quickly whilst out of office wherever he was within the borough meant he could keep working throughout a very challenging schedule of meetings.

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Ian Barnwell,
Director of Learning Technology,
William Morris Sixth Form

The benefits

“Throughout my involvement in the Building Schools for the Future work stream I was able to continue working as if I was still in the office using UK Broadband's 4G service,” says Ian Barnwell. “I was running full blown windows over the Internet – cloud computing – and it worked just like being on the LAN. 4G is an excellent solution to the ever growing needs of remote/mobile workers.”

With ever increasing pressure being put on local authorities to reduce costs, 4G offers the potential to save money and improve productivity through flexible access, as well as offering the additional benefit and freedom of fast wireless access for the whole community.

This solution can deliver seamless, secure and reliable connectivity from your home, through your journey and into your school or workplace. For learners and staff alike, it removes the need for infrastructure at individual establishments, instead allowing users to access the resources they need wherever they go.

Whilst this is part of one small trial, alongside The Bridge Academy trial; with over 9,000 children of school age in Hammersmith and Fulham alone, the addition of just a small number of base stations could enable every child in this area to have secure Internet access making it a highly scalable and cost effective solution which could help meet the needs of social inclusion too.

Extend this vision to allow other public services and workers such as social care, district nursing, fire, ambulance and police to use the same network and the potential savings are huge for any organisation ready to embrace the future of secure 4G wireless technology, which is available today from UK Broadband.

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I was running full blown windows over the Internet and it worked just like being on the LAN.

4G is an excellent solution to the ever growing needs of remote and mobile workers.

Ian Barnwell,
Director of Learning Technology,
William Morris Sixth Form



About us

UK Broadband is the UK's largest holder of national radio spectrum suitable for 4G mobile services and fixed wireless solutions.

We provide wireless data capacity, equipment, services and solutions to the telecoms industry, service providers, channel partners and the public sector.

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