

## WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



It wasn't just computing equipment at risk. Some classrooms had interactive white boards with expensive accessories. Other items such as projectors were also present. The School needed to find a way of protecting high-value locations and reducing maintenance costs. The right deterrent seemed to be cameras.

A digital surveillance system was then discussed. Installing digital cameras in locations with a spare network port and convenient power supply had immediate appeal. The School might then monitor and store images from several buildings across the network back to a central location. The plan had to fit a tight budget with minimal staff involvement and low maintenance costs.

As Information Technology reaches every part of the curriculum, schools have invested heavily in computers, networks and learning aids. Such valuable resources are often prone to interference, misuse or worse. Assisted by Computer Network Limited, Wolverhampton Grammar School has installed a digital surveillance system to protect its assets and deter student misbehaviour.

One of the oldest schools in the West Midlands, Wolverhampton Grammar School was founded in 1512. Since reverting to independence in 1979 after several decades of government control, it has become fully co-educational. Occupying a 22-acre site, it has 740 students and 87 staff.

Technology has been a major focus for Wolverhampton Grammar School in recent years. Occupying nine main buildings, it runs central Hewlett Packard and Dell servers with fibre links to each location. Over 180 personal computers are networked with 100 Mbps of bandwidth available at the desktop.

For Network Manager Paul Hancox, protecting these assets was an important task. While the School has 24-hour CCTV monitoring of its grounds via a security firm, there were no cameras inside. Vandalism or theft did not occur but IT equipment was vulnerable to interference.

"We suffered from some petty issues. For example, network cables were unplugged or mouse balls removed. This disrupted lessons and wasted valuable teaching time while the problems were fixed by technical staff," said Hancox.

"Having spent so much on our IT infrastructure, we wanted to integrate a surveillance system. We wished to avoid any additional installation, cabling or maintenance costs by making full use of our network," said Hancox.

In late 2000, the School decided on a pilot project. Good press reviews of Milestone Surveillance XXV software led Hancox to Computer Network Limited. The supplier took time to understand the problems and advise on technical issues before proposing a competitively-priced solution.

"While other firms struggled to answer our questions, the quality of Computer Network Limited's pre-sales technical support was superb."



Milestone Surveillance XXV software and three Axis 2110 network cameras were installed by Hancox in 2001. Covering three IT Rooms, it was a "straightforward and easy job" with Computer Network Limited's Help Desk just a telephone call away. In August 2002, six Axis 2110 network cameras scaled up the system. Two were installed in the Library, one in a multimedia room and three more eliminated blind spots in the IT Rooms.

The system is now an effective deterrent in high-value locations. A monitor in the IT Department's main office prominently displays camera images while another in the Library shows an image of the upper floor area. No staff time is needed thanks to automatic image recording, storage and erasure after 14 days. The software captures 10 high quality JPEG images per second from each camera around-the-clock. To avoid wasting disk space when areas are unoccupied,



Hancox has enabled motion detection but masked out normally-moving parts of the image.

Students have yet to be caught dismantling a mouse, pulling out network cables or disturbing other costly equipment. The digital surveillance system has put an instant end to all such behaviour. Images may be viewed in real time or from the archive via a web browser from any PC. The high quality makes identification of students easy.

"All our objectives have been met and our digital surveillance system is a complete success.



Students realise that there is no getting away from the cameras. We're now making full use of our facilities and lessons start on time," comments Hancox.

The benefits don't stop there. This virtuous combination of network infrastructure and scalable surveillance solution offers a long term low cost of ownership. Expansion plans include placing cameras in more PC-equipped classrooms, a language laboratory, geography suite and a Design & Technology room. Computer Network Limited is always willing to offer advice for future upgrades.

"Computer Network Limited stays in touch but without the usual sales pitch we get from other suppliers. It's a refreshing attitude and so I'm happy to recommend them," adds Hancox.

Although further expansion means a new server, any additional cameras will be cost-effectively phased in. When deciding on new locations, Hancox carefully balances camera cost against equipment value being monitored

in each room. Thanks to its new digital surveillance system, Wolverhampton Grammar School is successfully protecting its high-value learning environment.

#### QUICK FACTS

"The quality of Computer Network Limited's pre-sales technical support was superb."

Paul Hancox, Network Manager,  
Wolverhampton Grammar School

#### Business Profile

Wolverhampton Grammar School is one of the West Midlands' oldest independent schools with 740 students and 87 staff.

#### Solution

Milestone Surveillance XXV software  
Axis 2110 Network Cameras

#### Benefits

Protects Valuable IT Assets  
Deters Student Misbehaviour  
Low Maintenance Requirements

#### Contact Details

Computer Network Limited  
Unit 16, Lansbury Estate  
Lower Guildford Road  
Woking, Surrey, GU21 2EP

Tel: 01483 480088  
Fax: 01483 489977  
E-mail: sales@cnluk.com  
Web: www.cnluk.com