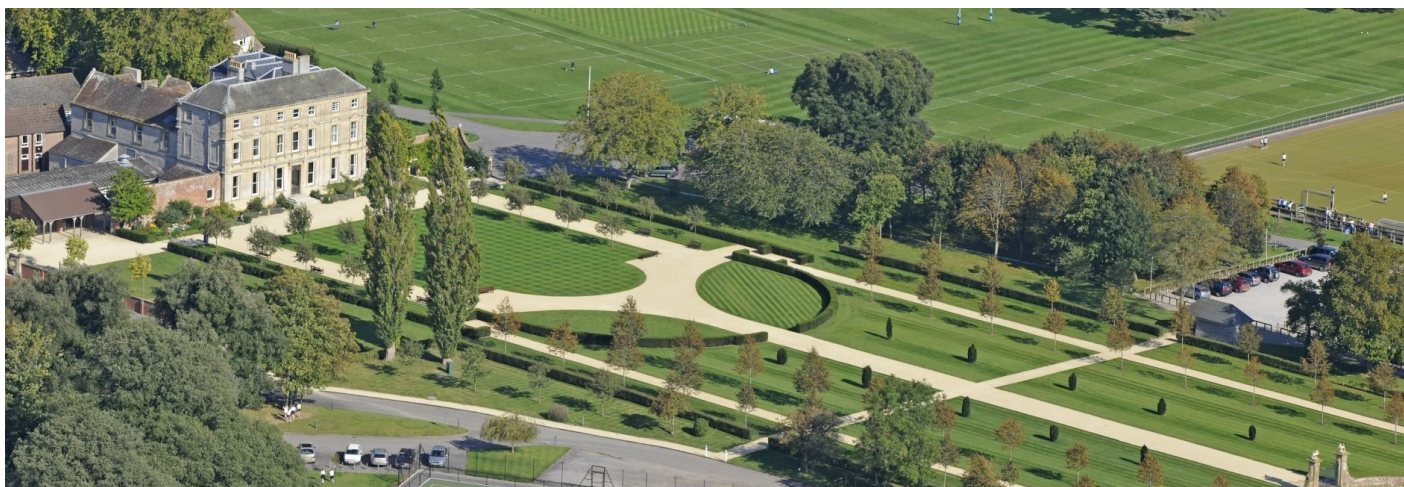




HAZLEGROVE GOES WIRELESS

IMPROVING LESSONS WITH A NEW WIRELESS NETWORK



HAZLEGROVE SCHOOL

Hazlegrove School is an independent day and boarding preparatory school. Located in the south-west of England, it has 350 pupils, aged 2½ to 13.

In lessons pupils use laptops and netbooks to carry out research on the internet or to access the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The school was using an off-the-shelf wireless network but it failed frequently, meaning that time was wasted in lessons as pupils waited for the school's ICT systems manager to come and fix the problem.

In addition, the school wanted to connect more iPads and iPhones to the network to aid teaching but the network was unable to support more simultaneous connections. So with this and the unreliability issues in mind, Hazlegrove asked REACT to install a new network, using Motorola Solutions' AP 6511 802.11n WallPlate Access Points.

The new network has made a big difference to lessons. Critically, it has never broken down. So teachers can plan a lesson based around use of the internet in the confidence that the connection will be continuously available. Also, the network is scalable, so more access points and devices can be added as needed. And students who board at the school can access the network in their own time outside school hours.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Organisation

Hazlegrove School

Location

UK

Industry

Education

Partner

REACT

Motorola Solutions' products

- AP 6511 802.11 WallPlate Access Points

Applications

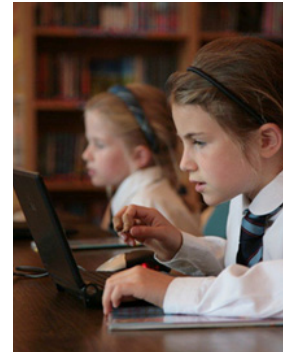
- Broadband services: High-speed wireless connectivity throughout classrooms

CASE STUDY

HAZLEGROVE SCHOOL WIRELESS NETWORK

“Now, whenever students go to use the wireless system, we know there won’t be any problems. I’ve not had one instance where I’ve had to go and reboot an individual point. We have half an hour in a lesson, and from the moment the children pull out their iPads they can get going and connect to the internet. It’s been absolutely flawless.”

Lee Andrews, ICT Systems Manager, Hazlegrove School



CHALLENGE

Hazlegrove pupils used laptops and netbooks in their lessons to access the internet, but the off-the-shelf wireless network deployed by the school frequently broke down. Each time the connection failed, the school’s ICT systems manager was called out to fix the problem. Some of the older laptops never seemed to connect properly at all. This meant that many lesson hours a week were lost while pupils and teachers waited for support, and the ICT systems manager spent at least half a day a week dealing with network problems.

The school had invested in 18 new iPads for students, and wanted to be able to connect them to the network, along with a number of staff iPhones. To cope with the increased workload, Hazlegrove would need a new, centrally managed network that would allow it to add new devices when needed, with little manual effort.

SOLUTION

REACT, a Motorola Solutions partner, implemented a new wireless network, using 18 AP 6511 802.11n WallPlate Access Points. The access points were placed in classrooms and communal areas around the school. The solution was a very simple one, and took only a day to install – each of the 18 access points was installed on top of existing data sockets, so there was no need to introduce new cabling.

The AP 6511 802.11n WallPlate Access Points are cost-efficient to purchase and easy to work with straightforward connectivity to the existing data sockets. Hazlegrove’s ICT systems manager was able to install the network while an engineer from REACT helped with setting up the management system. The network is also easy to work with from an RF planning viewpoint and considered placement of the access points means that the school has been able to create an outside classroom in a seated courtyard, which now receives a full wireless signal.

Further cost savings have been created by removing the need to purchase a central controller. Motorola Solutions has enabled the school to use one of the access points as the central controller, managing up to 25 access points. This has saved Hazlegrove several thousand pounds.

BENEFITS

Since the installation of the new network, there has been no downtime. The wireless connection always works, which means that, when staff plan a lesson, they know it will not be disrupted by the need to call for technical support. The ICT systems manager no longer has to worry about making the network work – instead he can devote his attention to other jobs.

It is easy to add new devices to the network, so staff and pupils with smartphones can now connect them to the wireless network. The network supports the drive to ensure that pupils are comfortable using the latest technology to enhance learning and develop their ICT skills.

In addition, boarding pupils can access the school’s VLE to do their homework. And they can use Skype to stay in touch with family members outside school hours. The network is easy to scale, so new access points can be added as needed.

Benefits

- **Reliable:** Robust, reliable connectivity delivers continuous operation
- **Affordable:** The new network is centrally managed from a single access point, saving several thousand pounds in buying a central controller
- **More efficient use of time:** Students’ and teachers’ time is more effectively used as the new wireless network runs smoothly and without interruption
- **Reduced costs:** The ICT manager has saved half a day a week in attending to wireless network issues
- **Affordable scalability:** New wireless devices can be connected to the network without needing to add additional equipment
- **Improved learning:** Students become comfortable in using technology from an early age
- **Improved quality of life:** Boarding pupils can use the internet outside school hours

For more information on how Motorola Solutions’ Wi-Fi technology can improve the learning environment, please visit us on the web at www.motorolasolutions.com or access our global contact directory at Motorola.com/Business/XU-EN/Contact_Us

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