

Homewood School redefines its approach to print with state-of-the-art Canon media centre.



Overview

Company	Homewood School
Founded Location	1957 Tenterden, Kent
Services	Comprehensive school and specialist Arts College.
Website	www.homewood-school.co.uk

Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre is a comprehensive school and specialist Arts College. Based in Tenterden, Homewood is the second largest secondary school in Kent, with over 2,200 students and more than 250 staff. It is a forward-looking school committed to providing the best education, with innovative approaches to motivate all students. As a result, Homewood School sits at the forefront of the 21st century personalised learning agenda.

Case Study
Homewood School

Challenges

In a drive to integrate technology into learning, Homewood School needed a partnership that could support its vision for change. Like many schools across the UK, the school had expanded its print fleet in previous

years, adding more capacity as it was needed. Predominantly serving the administration function, these printers had little impact on the work students produced.

Canon

“The current climate is tough for schools and the only viable options are to scale back or take an innovative approach. In order to achieve our aim of becoming a 21st century school, we wanted a technology partner that understood our vision and where we wanted to be. Through our partnership with Canon we can continue to grow and provide students with state-of-the-art equipment.” Chris Foreman, Vice Principal Learning Systems, Homewood School.

Solution

“When the contract came to tender, cost was never going to be the deciding factor,” says Chris Foreman. “Instead we were looking for a long-term partner that had similar values and the same forward-thinking mindset. With a heritage in imaging, an innovative outlook and a consultative approach to business, Canon suggested a solution that would positively impact on the students’ tuition, rather than simply suggesting we purchase stand-alone equipment.”

Homewood School now operates a 33-strong print fleet costing £63,000 per year, including black and white and colour multifunctional devices (MFDs), light production printers for large volumes and reports, and large format printers for theatre staging and art work. Using Canon’s uniFLOW software, students are able to use individual credits to submit print jobs during a lesson and collect at the device after class.

Homewood School’s aim was to create a media centre where students could create top quality exam coursework and university portfolios. The result is a high-end print room with the look and feel of a London design and marketing agency, and the best equipment available – including Apple Mac computers, a high tech projector and screening equipment to display work, as well as an advanced finishing area for prints.

Achievements

The media centre allows pupils to send their documents from anywhere on site and collect them at lunch and break times.

“We didn’t want printing to interrupt the flow of lessons, so we limited printing to break times,” says Chris. “Using the uniFLOW software, students or members of staff can collect their prints after class without losing them in the printer tray. The only exception is for art, graphics and design courses, as the students rely on print to be creative in their work.”

“The new set-up has also put an end to ‘casual’ printing, as users only really print what is required for their work,” continues Chris. “Since installing the equipment a new mindset has evolved. Students have become more selective about what, how and where they print. As a result, we’ve reduced the amount of paper we use by 20%.”

Homewood School also has greater control of printing and a better view of printing habits. It is now possible to highlight users that aren’t following procedures or redirect large print runs, if it’s needed.

The light production printers help with bulk printing and have enabled Homewood School to become a business in its own right, with a professional print bureau that offers cost-efficient services to local primary schools that don’t have the same capabilities.

The media centre is the first phase in a 3-stage plan to introduce technology into learning and provide top quality equipment to the students. It will be followed by the introduction of a ‘Canon Video Production Centre’ and ‘Canon Digital Photography Centre’. These centres will not only help the pupils’ education, they will also provide job opportunities for students, who can then help Homewood School offer these services to the local community, driving revenues back into the school.



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