

## CASE STUDY: VISION

# Hertfordshire Secondary School Harnesses Power of Technology for Student Learning With Netop School Classroom Management Software

Learn how this UK school keeps 900 students on task in the computer lab in this case study of classroom management software. Students stay engaged in learning and enjoy features such as interactive chat and screen-sharing demonstrations.

Sir Frederic Osborn School is a secondary school in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire with nearly 900 students between the ages of 11 and 16.

With the power of a computer at their fingertips, it's easy for students to get distracted by enticing computer games and off-topic Web sites. At Sir Frederic Osborn School, a Local Authority school in Welwyn Garden City, information and communications technology (ICT) technician

Michael James helps the nearly 900 students stay on task with the help of Netop School™, the all-in-one solution for classroom management.

With 40 years' experience in ICT behind him - primarily in a business environment - James is well-versed at finding the right tool to solve a problem. Four years ago, he came to Sir Frederic Osborn School as it was beginning to invest in ICT, to help bring it up to state standards. Part of that effort, in the last two years, has been installing Netop School on all of the computers in one of the labs. He found it worked so well that he expanded the installation to three additional labs.

Designed for educators who teach in networked classrooms or computer labs, Netop School incorporates powerful tools for preparation, instruction and evaluation. With Netop School, educators can share their computer screen with the class, supervise student computer work, lend a hand when needed, control application and

Internet use, distribute and collect documents, create tests and evaluate student progress.

"We had quite a culture of students playing games on the computers and were in desperate need of a crackdown," said James. At installation, he recalls demonstrating many of Netop School's capabilities to the students. "They were full of bravado at first - they didn't think it could keep them from the games," he said.

"Then they saw what else it could do, such as projecting something on everyone's screen, and there was quite a remarkable reaction. They were impressed. They began to respond to it and get back on task."

After implementation, James and his colleagues immediately saw a transformation in the computer lab, where students were engaged in learning. "We took it as a major breakthrough and thought, 'well, we're beginning to win,'" he said. "We also learned that most of the students actually appreciated the boundaries."

In Sir Frederic Osborn School's computer labs, students learn about word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, movie and photo editing and computer safety. With computer courses required for students ages 11 to 14 and optional for those 15 and 16, the labs are rarely vacant, keeping three ICT teachers busy. Other teachers in the school make use of the labs when there is availability, and "the rooms equipped with Netop School are always taken first," James said.

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### Benefits of Using Vision

- Enhances the teaching process with modeling capability
- Manages Internet access and use by students
- Facilitates the adoption of a paperless curriculum
- Provides cutting-edge technology to the business classroom

While James is not a classroom teacher, he steps in to lend a hand when needed. Now and then, he uses Netop School to lock down an individual student's computer, but he can only recall one time when he found it necessary to lock down an entire room of computers. "The students were talking, shouting and clowning around, and I locked the machines, which caused an instant quiet," he said. "Locking down for 30 seconds is all it takes."

When the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) recently arrived for a surprise visit to ensure the school's compliance with state standards, James was happy to have Netop School in the computer labs. "We had a tool at our disposal to keep the students on track, if need be," he said.

Sir Frederic Osborn School has a mix of operating systems, and James finds that Netop School accommodates all of them. The current release of Netop School, version 6.11, "works quite well with Windows 7," he noted. "I am very pleased with it."

The teachers at Sir Frederic Osborn School have a broad range of computer skills - from novice

to advanced - and Netop School serves them all, said James. "They can take the features as far as they'd like to go," he said.

With Netop School's screen-sharing technology, teachers can demonstrate a lesson directly on each student's computer, using both audio and video, rather than relying on projectors or whiteboards. "Many of our teachers use this feature, with great success," he said.

The teachers also appreciate the ability to monitor each student's progress, not only to make sure they're working on what was assigned but also to ensure they understand it, he said. "With Netop School, it's easy to see when a student needs help."

Students enjoy Netop School's interactive chat feature, which allows them to ask questions and receive help from the teacher in real time, the way today's students are used to communicating, he said.

"For student intervention, Netop School is invaluable," said James. "The success comes from their being on task, not playing games, and knowing that if they are off task, they'll get jumped on pretty quickly." And, he noted that the benefits are clear. "When a classroom is orderly, teachers can focus on what's important and students can achieve."

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