

Case study

Coleg Cambria embraces Cloud-First approach to educational excellence



HP Chromebooks and Google™ Applications provide an engaging, interactive platform for seamless education anywhere on campus

Industry

Education

Objective

Coleg Cambria found traditional PCs and laptops costly, inefficient and difficult to maintain. It wanted to transition from having dedicated 'computer rooms' to having a large pool of more dynamic, portable and durable devices

Approach

Working with educational IT specialist, C-Learning, it decided to deploy 4,000 HP Chromebooks running Google™ Applications for Education to give every student and teacher the opportunity to engage more interactively with their chosen subject

IT matters

- The 14-inch screen is popular with students and teachers alike
- Long battery life ensures each device lasts all day on a single charge
- HP Chromebooks are robust and easy to manage

Business matters

- HP Chromebooks are cost-effective with minimal maintenance expenditure
- Google Applications for Education deliver seamless access to content regardless of location or device
- Enabled collaboration in the classroom and enhanced academic achievement



“We needed a device that would be reliable and able to be just picked up and used by students and staff without constantly having to be charged or plugged in. Another factor was that it had to be affordable – the HP Chromebooks ticked all of those boxes for us.”

– Mark Brandish, director of technology and library services, Coleg Cambria

Welsh college deploys 4,000 HP Chromebooks to help transform learning

Using HP Chromebooks in conjunction with Google™ Applications for Education is enabling Coleg Cambria to both make its curriculum more engaging to students and to attain outstanding education inspection reports. Students are free to simply pick up any laptop and connect to their cloud data from any location on campus, while teachers can easily monitor and keep track of how each pupil is progressing.





Challenge

Meeting classroom demand for technology

Coleg Cambria in North East Wales is one of the UK's largest colleges, with over 7,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time students, and has international links covering four continents. It was created following the merger of Deeside College and Yale College, Wrexham and began teaching on 1st August 2013.

Like most modern educational institutions, technology plays an increasingly important role in the classroom. However, finding the right solution for students and teachers is not always simple. And for Coleg Cambria, whose subjects range beyond the classroom to courses in agriculture and engineering, the need for a robust and flexible solution was even more pressing.

"We realised about five years ago that there was a much greater demand for technology in the classrooms so a key part of our strategy is to be able to provide that for learners and for teachers," explains Mark Brandish, director of technology and library services, Coleg Cambria. "We wanted a device that's dependable and can be used day in, day out, in lessons."

Previously, Coleg Cambria had computer rooms with up to 25 devices per class. From a resource point of view, students had to be timetabled to be able to use them, there was a significantly higher demand than could be accommodated. The college wanted to find a way to equip all its students with the necessary tools to thrive and for information to be accessible both in the classroom and at home.

"We looked at various different laptops or netbooks at the time, the issues were battery life and maintenance," adds Brandish. "We also needed a device that would be reliable and able to be just picked up and used by students and staff without constantly having to be charged or plugged in. Another factor was that it had to be affordable – the HP Chromebooks ticked all of those boxes for us."

Solution

Versatile apps at the touch of a button

The HP Chromebook is built on Google's Chrome OS, delivering the full suite of Google™ applications instantly from anywhere – all in an elegant, lightweight and robust design. By combining Google Applications for Education with other cloud-based educational services, it provides the ideal platform for learning and teaching.



“We worked with our trusted cloud learning services partner, C-Learning, which has a good track record of working with Google Applications and was able to offer us a single solution with licences included,” remarks Brandish. “The company is well informed in terms of future developments and provides reassurance, training and expertise.

“What we liked about HP in particular is the choice that’s available because a lot of vendors only provide smaller screen Chromebooks and one of the criticisms from our students was that the 11-inch screens were too small,” continues Brandish. “So, when HP came out with an affordable, reliable 14-inch Chromebooks, it was the ideal choice.”

Coleg Cambria now has over 4,000 HP Chromebooks around the college, which are charged overnight so they’re ready whenever anybody needs to use them. Lessons and assignments are managed through the use of these devices in conjunction with Google Applications for Education; providing a robust, cloud-based solution which enables students and teachers alike to access information both in the classroom and at home.

“The HP Chromebooks hook into Google Apps so students can collaborate and cooperate in class and what’s happened is that increasingly our lessons are based around the fact that the technology is now available,” comments Brandish. “One of our key targets as a college is to try to engage learners and we’ve been able to do that using the HP Chromebooks to create more interactive lessons and content that students themselves would use.”

Benefits

Seamless learning in and out of class

The HP Chromebooks and Google Applications for Education are providing students and educators alike with flexible, collaborative tools that bring learning to life. No longer tied to bulky workstations, the boundaries between classroom and beyond have become blurred for enhanced productivity.

“Students use them for collaboration and typing up coursework; one of the things the students appreciate is that they don’t have to make notes in the lesson and then go away and do the work,” says Brandish. “They can actually process a lot of the things they would normally do outside the lesson while they’re in the classroom, making it a lot easier for them to complete coursework. The fact that the Google Apps suite is also available to them free means that they can go home and seamlessly access their work from other devices.”

Customer at a glance

Applications

Google Applications for Education

Hardware

• 4,000 x HP Chromebook

The HP Chromebooks have also helped educators connect more directly with their students by allowing homework and coursework to be shared as it develops, changing the traditional dynamic of taking a stack of papers home to be marked.

“One of our key targets as a college is to try to engage learners and we’ve been able to do that using the HP Chromebooks to create more interactive lessons and content that students themselves would use.”

— Mark Brandish, director of technology and library services, Coleg Cambria

“HP Chromebooks have made a fundamental change in the way that we deliver lessons, making them more engaging for students through the use of technology,” concludes Brandish. “In addition, the fact that we can allow students to find and install their own apps, which are managed and monitored by us centrally, means students can find something that’s useful for a particular lesson and that has changed the way we use technology.”

Learn more at

hp.com/hpeducation

Sign up for updates
hp.com/go/getupdated



Share with colleagues



Rate this document

© Copyright 2016 HP Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The only warranties for HP products and services are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein.

Google Inc. All rights reserved. Google Applications for Education is a trademark of Google Inc.

4AA6-6937EEE, August 2016

