

IT Update September 2020

Smart TV's cost & replacement

Over the summer holidays we replaced 8 aging projectors with modern 86" interactive TV screens. This cost about £33.5K.

We also replaced the drama projector with a new projector. This cost about £2k.

In both cases, these have been appreciated by the staff who have used them, and they can see an advantage in these over the current projector set up.

We have been able to use some of the equipment from these rooms to improve the facilities in other classrooms.

Laptops

We have continued the replacement of staff laptops. In these current times, it has been made harder by worldwide shortages of technologies, and increased prices, but we have just managed to purchase 15 laptops at £8.5K. The specifications are in line with what we would usually have purchased.

On top of this, we are trying to build a stock of laptops that can be given to staff and students in the result of isolation, and not having their own equipment to be able to partake in remote schooling activities. These will be installed and ready to delivery when required.

Remote / hybrid learning training and success

Remote schooling has been a success, considering how fast we evolved from classroom lessons into remote learning. We had a handful of staff already using Microsoft Teams, so we had enough of a background to be able to prepare documents to help teachers with the basics of using teams.

It was a bit bumpy at first but considering the majority of teachers were only going off a PDF guide that was emailed a few days before, they have done really well, and managed to get used to it, and use it efficiently to continue remote schooling.

Whilst teachers have got used to it, more training needs to be done to use it to its full potential. This includes producing how to guides for all teachers on various functions that have been developed over the last 6 months, as well as making sure teachers are comfortable with the functions that they are currently using.

Printer replacement

Over the summer we replaced and reduced our printer fleet, which also included a reduction in rental costs from £2,429.70 per quarter to £1,510.46 per quarter meaning a saving of £919.24 per quarter (£3,676.96 per year).

With more emphasis currently on electronic resources, and using Microsoft Teams, we are hoping that we can also reduce our printing costs further by not having to produce as many hard copies of worksheets and textbooks, that has happened historically.

Overview of upcoming priorities and cost

Continuation of Projector replacements to interactive TV's. The plan is to replace some more in the main building when we complete the new builds. A budgetary price to replace one projector with one TV screen is £4.5k, but this price will come down as we buy in bulk. The average price of the last project was £4k per TV.

We will continue to review and replace laptops, to ensure that teachers have the best equipment available.

We will also need to review our classroom replacement plan, and start to refresh student classroom desktop equipment.