



Herefordshire Council & Minster College

Case Study

PTS Consulting delivers Technical ICT Consultancy to set Herefordshire's Building Schools for the Future programme on the path to success...



The Client:



Herefordshire Council is running a project as part of the national UK Government Building Schools for the Future (BSF) One School Pathfinder (OSP) Programme. The Herefordshire BSF OSP project, due for completion in 2010, will see the Minster College campus replaced by a new High School with Sports College status that will have 100 members of staff and provide 900 places for 11-16 year olds as well as 120 post-16 places.

The Challenge:

At a strategic level, Herefordshire Council was looking for an ICT infrastructure that will support learning, collaboration, specialist support, management, leadership and community activities. From the ICT consultant, the Council were looking for guidance to achieve:

- A future-proofed multi-discipline learning spaces
- Challenge-based solutions, ensuring most appropriate results
- Knowledge transfer and training to empower local skill levels
- Reliable and secure infrastructure solution
- Sustainable long term Total Cost of Ownership model
- Connectivity and information share between three rural schools 15 miles apart as one 'virtual school'
- Quality systems underpinning all elements of the project, from Visioning through, Service Architecture, Technical Design, Project Management, Implementation and Training
- 10 year strategy and 'change map'

Rob Reid, Schools Planning & Access Manager at Herefordshire Council explained: *"Herefordshire Council wants to harness the power of technology in the Minster College programme to improve pupil aspirations and provide them with a wider perspective on the world. To initiate this process, we employed PTS Consulting to provide independent ICT consultancy to help define a new ICT vision, specification and project implementation plan that will support the College's new ICT environment."*

The Solution:

PTS Consulting worked alongside the Council's project team to deliver the following:



- Strategic analysis of needs and aspirations of staff and Head
- ICT Visioning report and performance description – An ICT vision that will incorporate future trends in technology with an initial IT scheme design
- Design for Passive Infrastructure and specification - A detailed 2 stage specification for the ICT installation, based on the BSF Model, to procure the desired outcome:
 - Stage 1** - The ICT infrastructure required to be built-in during the construction phase
 - Stage 2** - The ICT hardware and software to complete the installation once the building work is finished
- Benchmarking exercise - An investigation to compare the Minster Future School against the Whitecross High School PFI Programme in the City of Hereford, enabling the creation of a new high level watermark baseline standard for Herefordshire to work to.

The Benefits:

Working alongside the Council and the professional design team, PTS Consulting was able to help provide a clearly documented 10 year strategy to give the College a clear view of where they wanted to be and how they were going to get there. The Key Benefits realised by the Council and the College included:

- An ICT vision that supports the objective of the BSF OSP initiative and the learning needs of pupils
- The use of ICT as an enabler to share information between three rural schools as a single 'virtual school'
- A passive ICT infrastructure based on the BSF model
- Best practice procurement advice
- A 10 year strategy and 'change map' that guides the Council through to implementation

The Verdict:

PTS Consulting's involvement at such an early stage in the Herefordshire BSF OSP project has enabled the Council to develop a clear vision of where they wanted to be. The resulting strategy and specification have been developed in harmony with both the strategic and learning objectives of the Minster College Programme and has enabled the Council to select the best supplier and solution to help deliver the Minster College vision moving forward. *"We chose to work with PTS Consulting as its consultants are knowledgeable and experienced in the Education sector. It was clear from the start that they knew what they were talking about. PTS Consulting's rigorous programme structure ensured that everything was delivered on time and the quality of the written documentation produced has been superb."* Rob Reid, Schools Planning & Access Manager at Herefordshire Council.

About PTS Consulting

PTS Consulting Group PLC (PTS) is one of the world's leading IT consultancies with a reputation for innovation and thought leadership. PTS is also renowned for its project management expertise. As the global leader in IT relocation projects, working with some of the world's largest companies, PTS has earned a world-wide reputation for independence, professionalism and quality of service. Headquartered in the UK and founded in 1983, PTS has worked in over 70 different countries, 250 cities and employs more than 330 staff in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific. www.ptsconsulting.com