

Background to the Network Services Team at Blatchington Mill School

The Network Services team comprises an IT Systems Manager, Assistant Network Manager, network technician, senior support technician, two further IT support technicians and a web administrator. All based in one office in the West Wing of the school, we are responsible for providing the safe and reliable running of the ICT network in order to support Learning and Teaching within school and to support administration and office services.

We run an RM CC4 network supporting around 750 windows clients (desktops, laptops and netbooks) running a mixture of Windows 7 and Windows XP currently and mostly upgraded to Office 2010. Integrated with our windows network we have around 50 AppleMac clients in our Music Technology suites. All clients on both operating systems support a large variety of curriculum and other software. We support around 250 staff, 1800 students, 3000 parent accounts and many more from school partners around the globe who have access to our systems.

We host all of our own systems in-house, running on around 12 Dell servers. We are currently looking into consolidating our systems onto a SAN. Some of the systems we install and support ourselves are Exchange (about to be upgraded to 2010), Sharepoint 2010, MS TMG firewall, SIMS (school focussed management information system) and a Symantec backup system. We use Sophos AV for a school-wide solution. We have three CC4 servers delivering home folders, printers and other services to our users. Added to these whole school systems are a multitude of smaller systems that bring a real benefit to more specific sections of our userbase.

Our network infrastructure is also maintained and developed in-house. We have gigabit to the desktop with a fibre backbone, and two wireless networks one allowing open access (once the device is registered with us) and the other for school laptops. We have three trollies of laptops and minibooks which are used as mobile classrooms around the school.

Considerable time investment has been made in our Sharepoint environment which has led to us becoming nationally renowned for our commitment to and expertise in online parental engagement in particular. As a school, we have an excellent reputation both locally and further afield for our commitment to and proficiency in ensuring that Blatchington Mill stays at the forefront of technologies for the benefit of our students, staff and the wider community.

We are a dynamic and extremely busy team, working together to ensure success in everything that we do. We work hard individually to develop our own knowledge in specific fields and enjoy the opportunities we have to become involved in projects which are current and as diverse as: introducing a cashless catering system, developing a separate network for computing courses using thin client technologies, consolidating our storage solution onto a SAN, developing our server virtualisation, introducing online reports for parents, expanding and upgrading our wireless technologies, relaunching and rebranding our sharepoint solution using 2010, introducing social networking for students and staff, incorporating a vle into our sharepoint system and many more.

All this on top of keeping everything running on a day to day basis and maintaining a sense of humour.....

Your experience with the following technologies and systems will be seen as an advantage- DHCP, DNS, AD, Windows Server, Mac OS X Server, SQL, Sharepoint, TMG, Wireless, SIMS and Symantec Backup Exec.