

USER STORY

Riddlesdown High School

Purley, Surrey

Contact: Adam Fish – Senior ICT Technician

Riddlesdown High School based in Surrey has approximately 1540 students and has gained status as a Specialist Science college. The school has just celebrated its 50th anniversary and offers education across key stages 3, 4 and 5.

Adam joined the ICT team at Riddlesdown just under a year ago at a stage where the concept of streaming and archiving video content had already been discussed and researched. The team at Riddlesdown had already evaluated the Planet eStream solution and believed that it would be a valuable asset to the school. Adam was instrumental in its implementation and the school purchased the core eStream solution, 6 Encoding stations and the Freeview module in October 2007.

Currently, although the project at Riddlesdown is in its infancy, the solution is used widely as a valuable teaching aid with take up being high in the Humanities faculty in particular. Humanities have already digitised vast amounts of material onto the eStream database and plan to complete the digitisation of their entire archive of content over time. The drama department have recently invested in camcorder equipment to film their productions and Adam feels that eStream will prove to be a valuable repository for their material which can then be shared with other students, staff and parents alike. The music department are in the process of having a recording studio installed and Adam is looking at integrating eStream to facilitate the live broadcasting of audio productions from their recording studio and for archiving their content. It is also planned to roll the solution out key stage 5 Media Studies students to encourage the upload of their final projects onto the stream solution to share with their class and to link to the school website.

Adam explained that the implementation of eStream has been a very positive step for Riddlesdown both as a teaching aid and as valuable timesaving tool for support staff. A major plus point for the teaching staff has been ease of use. The ICT staff have found the web based interface to be particularly useful as it alleviates the need for client based installs on staff and student PC's. Traditionally their reprographics assistant would have carried out all of the video to DVD dubbing and she is now able to point staff straight to eStream for the content that they require.

The support staff find the Freeview module to be of particular merit as it has negated the need to record material onto DVD. The ability to remotely log on to the Freeview module's EPG (electronic programming guide) and schedule a recording via that method along with the ability to record programs concurrently has been a really beneficial feature.

Riddlesdown have recently purchased a domain for the purpose of externally linking eStream content to both their website and a managed learning environment which has been rolled out across the borough. This is an initiative by Riddlesdown to encourage their students to make use of video clips within a regulated environment.

Adam has been very happy with the after sales support received from Planet PC and in particular praised the strategy of the installation engineer being responsible for the ongoing support of the client.

