Court Grammar School

Case Study

Court Grammar School is an independent, coeducational school that encourages students to explore a wide variety of disciplines including literacy, numeracy, arts, sport, and technology.

Located in Mundijong Western Australia, they have a strong focus on empowering students by providing a range of opportunities to learn, grow, and develop a strong sense of belonging within the school community.

Challenge

As a result of outdated technology, Court Grammar School was facing an uphill battle to improve learning outcomes through digital innovation. Old switches, mismatched fibre optic cables, and other networking issues were contributing to an unstable Wi-Fi environment that was causing long wait times, unreliable phone connections, and interruptions to digital learning.

Court Grammar School is also in a remote suburban area with less reliable internet and power, which presented further challenges. These factors meant the school couldn't rely on pure cloud solutions or have single points of failure on the campus. Resilience was key at the switching and wireless levels as well as at the edge through to the internet.

After joining the school as IT Manager in 2020, Jacob Curulli saw the necessity for a strong wireless environment. Around the same time he started, the school was thrown into the COVID-19 crisis which meant teachers suddenly needed the capability to teach from the school while students learned from home. This wasn't sustainable or productive given the existing networking issues.

> "Technology wasn't being used in classrooms because of how many issues there were. The school has a BYOD iPad program, but it wasn't being used because teachers would have to wait 10 or 15 minutes for a YouTube video to load. And of course, by that time students would lose interest in the class."
>
> Jacob Curulli
> IT Manager
> Court Grammar School

With prior experience of Aruba, Jacob knew the technology could meet the school's requirements as well as easily integrating with third party edge security solutions. He'd recently brought Honeylight on to install access points in a new building at the school, so he reached out to obtain information on Aruba and what the school needed to solve their issues.

The solution

Before any procurement was undertaken, the needs of Court Grammar School were placed front and centre. Honeylight engineers took the time to understand all site issues so they could be resolved and fed into design considerations.

A Modern Wi-Fi Infrastructure for Reliable Connectivity

Once the contemporary fibre infrastructure was implemented in the new building, the school was able to leverage the highly resilient architecture of the new Aruba CX6400 series across the rest of the school. After completing a Wi-Fi survey and mapping of the school, Honeylight engineers identified the best places to install Aruba Core Switches and configured them in a highly available state.

Honeylight's partnership approach also provided the school with a strong cabling contractor that resolved a lot of the issues and built a reliable system for them.

"I've worked with Honeylight for such a long time that I went straight to them and asked what we needed to fix all the networking issues we were facing. They put us onto the right fibre optic installers straight away and gave us everything we needed fast, even at a time when IT demand was so high in the education sector."

Tracking Capabilities Unlocked with Aruba ClearPass

For safety and security reasons, Court Grammar School wanted more clarity on who was on the network, what they were doing, and where they were in the school. Aruba ClearPass was added onto the Wi-Fi project to meet this need, giving the school's IT team the ability to track students and gain more granular control over who could access the network.

ClearPass is also being used to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 through contact tracing. Court Grammar School can see when a student walked past a particular access point in the school which allows them to trace their path through the school. This enables them to alert close contacts to help minimise the spread.

"We've got access points in pretty much every single classroom, so as students walk around the school we can triangulate them quite accurately. This feature really enhances safety in the school."

The results

Teachers, students, and staff now have access to reliable Wi-Fi throughout the entire campus driving better learning and safety outcomes. The upgrade empowers Court Grammar School to leverage IT instead of being held back by it.

Fast and Reliable Wi-Fi

"As well as gaining a faster network, a huge benefit is that our teachers now trust it. This is a big thing for a teacher who only has 45 minutes with their students because it means they have the confidence to load a video or a learning app and know it won't be interrupted."

Uninterrupted Learning

The school also now has a network with high resilience and redundancy for uninterrupted digital learning, as well as built-in cost efficiencies. It has laid a solid foundation for Court Grammar to build further value through automation and expand into enhanced uptime, faster access, disaster recovery, reduced recovery time objectives, and better recovery point objectives.

Easy Management

Behind the scenes, the IT team is enjoying significant time savings with the easy management through Aruba Central and lost device tracking.

"Aruba Central is saving me a lot of network management time while also proving to be an incredibly helpful tool for tracking down lost devices. It allows us to pinpoint where devices are on the network, so the rate of lost iPads has dropped significantly."

Talk to our team about enhancing your network to keep up with the digital demands of today and tomorrow.

"Honeylight really have their finger on the pulse when it comes to what's going on in education and that's incredibly valuable for us."

Jacob Curulli
IT Manager
Court Grammar School

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