

St Helens College rolls out CTOUCH interactive displays

When St Helens College Merseyside decided to invest in new interactive technology for use as a learning resource, it turned to CC Communications a specialist education and IT supplier in nearby Burnley.

“The college had undertaken an impressive level of research and already knew they wanted large flat screen LCD displays with built-in multi-touch to replace old school interactive whiteboards and projectors”

Managing Director of CC Communications, Ian Crowther.





Technology match making

Once they had taken time to understand the college's requirements, CC Communications worked with its distribution partner Medium UK to assess available products, selecting 65" multi-touch LCD interactive displays from CTOUCH for the project. The college accepted their recommendation and placed an order for the supply and installation of 25 CTOUCH interactive displays.

The 65" CTOUCH interactive display is based on a professional grade LCD panel making it ideal for daily use in a college classroom, connected to a PC or a laptop. The responsive optical touch surface provides fast, accurate annotation capabilities; the display also incorporates other features such as native Full HD screen resolution to show clean and crisp high definition content, a built-in amplifier and stereo speakers.

Three HDMI ports allow simultaneous connection of multiple high resolution content sources without swapping cables, and a network connection via the PC or laptop provides direct access to the college network and the Internet.

The anti-reflective coated CTOUCH interactive display was selected to prevent artificial light or sunlight reflecting off the screen surface, obscuring the students' view of screen content; a problem common to brightly lit classrooms, like those of the St. Helens Technology Campus, with large windows and glass walls.

Installation challenges

Those glass walls presented a further challenge for the College. Interactive displays typically weigh considerably more than interactive whiteboards and so are often unsuitable for wall mounting.

Its experience in education technology and installation meant CC Communications was not only wise to the issue, but had a solution ready and waiting.

"Lots of new schools and college buildings have glass interior walls to create light and airy learning spaces, while most existing schools and college classrooms have partition walls. In either case, the walls simply aren't strong enough to wall mount any large LCD touch display," explains Ian Crowther.

The solution is a floor-stand from specialist bracket and mounting system manufacturer RA Technology, also available from Medium UK. They provided a secure and discreet stand, with a surprisingly small footprint.

Floor mounting eliminates all the Health & Safety concerns involved with hanging a considerable weight on a wall, and because cables and connections to other equipment can be integrated into the stand, messy and potentially dangerous cable trails can also be avoided.

Effective project management

St Helens College is a large college located across two campus sites in the town of St Helens in Merseyside offering hundreds of higher education, professional and vocational courses to more than 7,500 students and apprentices.

To avoid disruption to college staff and students, CC Communications' project management team opted to carry out the installation of a total of 25 CTOUCH interactive displays mounted on RA floor-stands over the Easter break. With careful planning and coordination with the college by CC Communications project management team, the work was completed on time and within the agreed budget.

"We are highly customer focused at CC Communications," adds Ian Crowther, "and very experienced in education technology solutions."

"We understand the pressures faced by our customers, so we work in partnership with them and Medium UK too fully understand their needs, recommend the best available products, and to plan and complete installation on time and to budget, without any compromise on quality."

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