The Client

Founded in 1624, Latymer Upper School has a long tradition in high quality education leadership. Its aim is to provide a broad and stimulating educational experience with very high teaching standards for boys and girls 11 -18 years of age. The school is fully digitalised, giving its students a chance to discover the world of new technology and preparing them for adulthood in the 21st century. All of Latymer’s classrooms are fully equipped with Apple TVs, and both teachers and pupils are provided with iPads to make learning easy, effective and fun.

The Challenge

The introduction of mobile devices in the classroom required teachers to adopt the same new skills as their pupils. Almost 25 percent of teachers at Latymer Upper School still adhere to the traditional way of teaching, believing that pen and paper is the most effective learning method. The school faces an ongoing challenge: increasing awareness about technology and educating staff members on how it can make them more productive and efficient. The school’s primary objective was to ensure that iPads are used only for educational purposes and do not become a source of distraction.

To fully support its e-learning initiatives, Latymer Upper School needed an enterprise mobility management (EMM) solution that would facilitate mobile device management, enable effective management of distributed apps and increase collaboration between teachers and students. After a thorough analysis, Latymer Upper School found that AirWatch® by VMware® met these needs. “AirWatch offers a very simple way to create an app catalog and the ability to block access to the App Store. There are a number of EMM vendors, but AirWatch is quite unique in that ability. Our app catalog started with 20 applications and now we have 130,” said Chris Gavin, senior IT technician, Latymer Upper School.

The Solution

Latymer Upper School has 500 iPads enrolled with AirWatch. “The enrollment process was very straightforward,” said Mr Gavin. “The students were able to enroll their own iPad in the classroom with minimal assistance.” Currently, Latymer Upper School uses three methods to empower educators to provide a variety of content during lessons to monitor each student’s progress and provide individual feedback. The majority of the teachers use...
the school’s intranet, which is built on a framework called firefly. The second method is an application called Showbie that tracks the flow of the pupils’ work from start to finish, including all revisions and notes. Additionally, some teachers simply put work into a network folder and send the students a request with a link to upload the completed work.

Prior to implementing AirWatch, students’ Internet access was restricted by content filtering but they had full access to the App Store. To minimise distractions, the school now uses an age restricting profiles to ensure that only appropriate content is accessible. Access to the App Store is blocked and all application requests need approval from the administrator. AirWatch also deactivates notifications and alerts if the device is in use during the lesson.

Latymer Upper School uses three applications that enable students to incorporate text, annotations or voice notes in their assignments. “The whole assignment review process used to take days. Now, it can be completed in less than a day, thanks to AirWatch,” explained Mr Gavin. “Teachers don’t need to carry a heavy diary and students are not waiting weeks to receive results and feedback on their work.”

Teachers can interact with students one-on-one, discuss the content on the iPad and personalise the lesson. Mobile devices in the classroom encourage students to actively participate and enable them to do so even when they are not there physically.

Up Next
To fully support e-learning initiatives, Latymer Upper School plans to implement AirWatch® Teacher Tools® – the interactive education application that enables teachers to fully guide the learning experience and management in the digital classroom.