

## CASE STUDY...

# Amazing IT



Lanway build IT infrastructure solutions, more importantly we build trusted partnerships with our clients. By listening and sharing ideas, our team of experts can really make a difference and deliver tangible benefits to the organisations we work with. **One such customer is The Grange Comprehensive School...**

## THE GRANGE FILE



The Grange Comprehensive School's desktop estate comprises of over 125 PC's and 180 laptops which were in active use running Windows XP. Lanway were brought in to assist in developing a desktop architecture that would allow the Comprehensive School to grow their IT base, introduce new more manageable technologies whilst increasing security and streamlining their IT support function and saving money.

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

COMPANY : THE GRANGE  
 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL  
 INDUSTRY : EDUCATION  
 COUNTRY : UNITED KINGDOM  
 FOUNDED : 1954  
 STUDENTS : OVER 1,000  
 WEBSITE : WWW.THEGRANGE.COM

## THE CHALLENGE

THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE IS BUILT ON OLD TECHNOLOGY AND WAS PROVING TO BE A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT TO MANAGE AND REQUIRED DAILY MAINTENANCE FROM A WHOLE TEAM OF IT TECHNICIANS.

## LANWAY SOLUTION

LANWAY INTRODUCED A THIN CLIENT SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ENABLE I.T. STAFF TO MANAGE THE WHOLE I.T. ESTATE FROM A CENTRAL LOCATION, IN ADDITION THE SCHOOL REALISED COSTS SAVINGS IN REDUCED HARDWARE EXPENDITURE, REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS AND REDUCTIONS IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION.



## THE GRANGE FILE

### The Background

The Grange Comprehensive School opened in 1954 as a mixed non-denominational secondary school in Runcorn, Cheshire, taking pupils within the ages 11-16 with a pupil roll of over 1000. The school serves an area of Runcorn with twice the level of social and economic disadvantage found nationally, over 75% of its pupils receive free school meals. Almost half of the students are considered to have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities.

The Headteacher, Mr Carney, has worked tirelessly to develop and improve the school and the school now enjoys assistance from the Sports England Sportsmark Award, Artsmark Gold Award, Financial Management Standard in Education Award and Inclusion Quality Mark Award. The school site has also witnessed the addition of a City Learning Centre which aims to help the students, families and the general public in supporting their lifelong ambitions through education. In 2007 the Education & Skills select Committee decided that The Grange would join the adjacent nursery, infant and junior school to create an all-through school this will occur in September, 2010.

### The Issues

Over the years additions to the Grange Comprehensive IT systems had resulted in 125 PC's and 180 laptops being in active use, all based on Windows XP.2

This resulted in an increasingly difficult environment to manage, requiring increasingly onerous project management and day to day support. Security patches, new program versions and consistency of user experience across all the machines were increasingly difficult to effectively co-ordinate and manage.

Lanway were brought in to assist in developing an architecture that would allow the Comprehensive to grow their IT base, introduce new technologies whilst maintaining security, and streamlining their IT support experience.

### The Results

The introduction of a pilot to trial "thin client" would enable IT staff to manage the user desktop from a central location, allowing them to troubleshoot issues more quickly, rollout security patches with the minimum of disruption, and introduce new programs in a far more timely manner.

Lanway installed and configured three new servers and associated software and hardware to allow this pilot to take place, providing an on-site engineer for the duration of the install, and then 12 months network support to ensure the pilot was a success.

In addition, this "thin-client" network has now enabled the Comprehensive to buy new thin client PC's at a fraction of the cost of conventional desktops.

The upgrade to Windows 7 has resulted in an up to date IT environment, which is responsive, secure and in a position to deliver the new services the Comprehensive plans to deliver to staff and students.



### What the client said

Chris Stott described his working relationship with Lanway as "fantastic", he went on to say "Through Lanway's Management Service, I feel I have the support of an extra technician which means I can now fulfill part of my Job Specification I have never been able to achieve before - I assist teachers with IT class room activities with the main

focus of ensuring the lessons are more enjoyable for the students. This is a wonderful opportunity to show off what our systems can really do, its amazing!". Chris is also looking forward to a further OFSTED Inspection as he truly feels the new systems in place will go a long way in improving the Schools Overall Grading and more importantly looks forward to OFSTED comments with regard to the new IT Suite.