

Culcheth High School delivers best-practice educational experience with **Salamander Integration Suite** and Google Classroom

Industry
Education

Location
Cheshire

Challenge
To deliver flagship educational technology to a flagship school

Solution
Salamander Integration Suite

Products and Services
Google G Suite

Results
Improved educational experience for all via advanced technology and automation transformation

Culcheth High School is a highly successful and popular community school in Warrington. High performing, ambitious and forward-thinking, it strives to deliver the best possible educational experience for its students. To further its ambition to become a beacon learning institution, providing the best technologies for its students, teachers and the wider community is vital. Culcheth High School selected Google's G Suite for Education to power its innovation and strategic mission, and SalamanderSoft as its integration partner.

Creating new learning opportunities


As a consistently high performing school, Culcheth High School strives to be the best in all aspects of its service to 1200 students, its teaching body and the wider community. A move to a new £28million facility in 2010, marked the start of an exciting transformation project and over £1M investment in creating and delivering next-generation technology services.

Having previously used UniServity VLE, Culcheth High School had begun to notice a significant downshift in functionality and usage and needed to implement a succession plan for a more advanced educational platform. As the school was already using Gmail, G Suite for Education and Google Classrooms were the obvious choices, but Culcheth High School recognised it needed specialist guidance to get the very best out of the solution for both teachers and students. With students joining and leaving the school at regular intervals, it was imperative that ongoing account set-up, provision and deletion was as automated, secure and simple as possible. Furthermore, it wanted to give teachers advanced teaching resources without administrative burden.

"We needed a robust, efficient and reliable platform to replace our aging VLE. We started to work with Google and then G Suite Applications. It allows us to live our school vision, values and ethos operating within a modern, efficient and dynamic platform for staff, students, governors and parents to use collaboratively."

Christopher Hunt, Head teacher

Culcheth High School turned to SalamanderSoft, whose specialist Salamander Integration Suite and experience of the education sector would provide the ability to customise G Suite to the school's individual needs, automate deployment, activate Google Classrooms, and ultimately deliver the advanced learning opportunities from within and outside the classroom.



"The greatest benefit for me as a teacher who uses Google Classroom is the opportunity for collaboration inside and outside of the classroom. Students can contact me in a safe and appropriate way and receive almost immediate feedback to help them to improve the quality of their work"

Jodie Lomax, Teacher of RE & Lead Teacher of Research

"We wanted a more collaborative online environment. We knew the direction we wanted to go and what we wanted to achieve so we reached out to SalamanderSoft", explains Stuart Piggott ICT Strategy Lead. "Integrating Salamander Integration Suite within our technology stack made the deployment slick, simple and cost-efficient. We have a suite of tools customised to our individual needs."

Integrating technology into every aspect of school life

To get the best out of the platform, SalamanderSoft consulted closely with the Culcheth IT team to understand the school's unique needs. Detailed information about the school's MIS (SIMS) system, goals, day-to-day requirements and aspirations for future technology use were gathered, forming the blueprint for a customized instance of Salamander Integration Suite which would ultimately be deployed in just two days and fully operational after one week of testing.

The Salamander Integration Suite uses Culcheth's existing SIMS data source to automatically provision and manage user accounts, groups, mailboxes, calendars and Google Classrooms, and provide staff and teachers with a simple and easy way to get the most from the technology straight away. The blended solution has enabled Culcheth High School to integrate technology into every aspect of teaching, learning and school life.

"The functionality is superb. Automated provisioning has improved overall efficiency and enables us to set up new students easily, whilst automated management

"Google transforms the way in which I can see my classwork and homework. I can start an assignment using a Windows PC at school, continue on my Android mobile phone on the bus and then finish it on my Apple Mac at home. I have found it very useful having my full time table to hand through Google Calendars so I know what lessons I have coming up throughout the day on any device."

James, Year 11 student

of Google Classrooms allows our staff to set up classrooms very quickly, leaving teachers to get on with what they do best."

Transforming education and engagement

The power of a robust infrastructure, leading educational tools and automated management has revolutionised the overall efficiency of Culcheth High School's learning environment. Teachers praise the ease of use of the management system, and the advanced tools have been pivotal for teaching advancement and classroom productivity. The IT team are liberated from admin tasks, giving them time back every day to refocus on initiatives which deliver increased capability.

With a truly online world now in place, every teacher and student has a single view of study group information, classroom assignments and calendars on any device at any time. Students can see their timetable and the homework or coursework that needs completing, leading to staged improvements in results and improved student-teacher engagement.

"Without the Salamander Integration Suite we wouldn't have the same engagement with staff and students, and we wouldn't have been able to continue to develop our systems to ensure that engagement is sustained."

Flagship technology for a flagship school

The technology transformation, delivered by Salamander Integration Suite, has radically improved the home/school relationship too, and brought the whole Culcheth High School Community to life. Just as teachers and students have embraced the solution so too have parents, with over 78% connecting into the system regularly and reaping the benefits of a closer connection to the school. Similarly, as a way of enhancing relationships with other schools in the community, Culcheth have invited feeder primary schools into the Google Classrooms to aid pupil transition.

Supported by a cutting-edge, efficient cloud infrastructure, the future looks bright for the Culcheth High School community. It has now been recognised by Google as a 'UK Reference School' for its best practice use of Google products. Culcheth High School has indeed truly reached its ambition of becoming an educational beacon in the community.

Stuart Piggott summarises: *"We're a far more proactive educational environment, and when I think about what we are now achieving and the development taking place within our school, I can honestly say we wouldn't have been able to do that without Salamander Integration Suite and our Google environment."*

Benefits Overview

Customised cloud platform

Using the Salamander Integration Suite has delivered a fully customised suite of educational tools, and the functionality the school needs to perform at the highest level

Automated efficiency

Automated provisioning and management of user accounts, groups, mailboxes, calendars and Google Classrooms, has improved IT time efficiency and provided staff and teachers with a simple and easy to use management system that makes their lives easier

Improved productivity

Salamander Integration Suite has enabled transformative improvements in the overall capability of the learning environment which wouldn't have been possible manually, pivotal for teaching advancement and classroom productivity.

Engagement and attainment

An online world, where every teacher and student has a single view of all relevant information, has led to staged improvements in results and improved student-teacher engagement.

Key Benefit

Improved educational experience

Thanks to the Salamander Integration Suite, Culcheth High School has successfully advanced its integration of Google Classroom and G Suite into every aspect of teaching, learning and school life, resulting in the best possible educational experience for all.

Contact Us

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