

# Civica supports Sandymoor School in achieving an ambitious ICT vision

Sandymoor School benefits from a proactive, strategic partner with a long-term plan



**Sandymoor**  
*A Fresh Approach to Education*

"ICT alone will not transform learning, but learning cannot be transformed without it. Using ICT, highly motivated students can be more in control of their own learning, guided by highly skilled staff focussing on the delivery of excellent personalised learning."

Andrew Green-Howard  
Head Teacher at Sandymoor School

Sandymoor School is a free school that was set up by a group of parents concerned about the options they had for their children's secondary education. The school services a growing housing estate with more children of secondary school age per household than the national average. The nearest schools were still quite a distance from Sandymoor and are some of the largest in the country.

Sandymoor Free School offers a smaller and more local school for the growing number of Sandymoor residents.

## Sandymoor's Vision

Inspired by their founders, the school's ethos is centred around the empowering theory 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things.' No child is left behind at Sandymoor School, with an individualised approach to learning, every child is at the heart of the learning delivery.

A big part of the vision for Sandymoor School is their ICT. Very quickly the Head Teacher saw how ICT could become a major thread in delivery of the Sandymoor vision. The ICT vision hinges on the following:

- > ICT should be ubiquitous; it's all around us. This is true at home and in the workplace, so should be reflected in the classroom. They aim to seamlessly integrate what children are able to do at home with their ICT and devices, with what they are able to do at school.
- > ICT should be used to transform teaching practice, which in turn will improve engagement levels, learning and ultimately attainment.

## Transformational Teaching

ICT is being used to transform the way teaching is delivered. Each learning space benefits from twin projection, teachers are able to plug their laptop into a docking station and then drive their lesson through the use of a tablet and the twin projectors. This allows teachers to be much more engaged with their students, without the barrier of a teacher's desk or turning their back to use an interactive whiteboard.

By maximising on the use of Office 365, through Civica's CloudBase portal, Sandymoor is already benefiting from a customised learning environment which can be accessed from anywhere at anytime, extending learning beyond the school boundaries.

**CIVICA**

### London, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7760 2800  
2 Burston Road, London  
SW15 6AR  
marketing@civica.co.uk  
[www.civica.co.uk](http://www.civica.co.uk)

### Leeds, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 113 244 1404  
Vanguard House, Dewsbury Road  
Leeds LS11 5DD  
marketing@civica.co.uk  
[www.civica.co.uk](http://www.civica.co.uk)

## Civica: A Strategic ICT Partner

Sandymoor School were keen to find a partner who could support them through a demanding three year implementation programme which would see them move from temporary buildings, to a new, custom-designed, modern school building.

They wanted a partner who could shape and customise the ICT provision, experiment in learning delivery, challenge the current ICT culture and support teaching staff to be e-confident.

Sandymoor were adamant that despite being in temporary buildings, their school should benefit from the ICT vision right from the beginning. By the time they move into the new building, school staff and students will be used to the new ICT, as the same model has been implemented in the temporary buildings as will be in the new building.

The school have been impressed by Civica's flexibility and creativity in coming up with solutions to unforeseen issues or challenges. The first implementation of ICT to the temporary buildings went fairly smoothly despite various site limitations. Civica's open communication with the school ensured that expectations were met, potential issues avoided and solutions found quickly.

### What does the future hold?

Civica is working with the school to tweak the ICT solution for the new school to ensure it delivers what Sandymoor School needs it to. The initial installation to the temporary buildings has been a useful test-bed for all concerned to see where things need improving or adapting.

The new school building is due to open in September 2014, in the meantime, Civica provides ongoing support and training to Sandymoor School in the following ways:

- > Delivery of a managed ICT service providing technical support as and when needed, collaborating with their onsite technician to help the school get the most out of their ICT
- > Customisation and training on CloudBase, their online learning environment
- > Implementation of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) scheme, due to be rolled out in April.

Creating value together



"We selected Civica because they showed a great understanding of what we wanted to achieve here at Sandymoor School. We like their partnership model and Civica's team of teachers act as an extension of my school team...they are invaluable."

Andrew Green-Howard  
Head Teacher at Sandymoor School



### Watch this space

We will revisit Sandymoor School in October, once they are settled in their new school to see how the transition has gone and what technological innovations have been introduced at the school.

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