

Bromcom MIS

A User's Perspective...

School Background

Leasowes Community College in Halesowen contacted Bromcom in 2004 in their search for a session by session registration system as their existing providers (RM) were unable to provide this for them.

The Bromcom system enabled Administration staff to send messages to school staff electronically which proved to be a very quick and reliable method of contacting staff. The school office could also be contacted in an emergency – for instance if there was a fire or a medical emergency. Staff found this extremely useful especially because the school has a number of mobile classrooms.



The Challenge

We were unhappy with our Management Information System which we found inefficient and time consuming. When we heard that Bromcom had a full MIS available, we quickly signed up as early adopters. One of the greatest advantages we saw was for all our school data to be in one place and Bromcom was forward-thinking enough to provide a web-based system from the very beginning.

The move to e-Timetable, Bromcom's timetabling package was a very effective one with the great benefit of a single standard import into the main MIS. This resolved one of the greatest issues with our previous MIS.

School staff simply continued to work with our standard timetabling package and via a simple import routine, changes could automatically be transferred.

Moving from Integris to Bromcom, we did have some teething problems, however the Bromcom Support Team overcame issues very efficiently and as quick as they could. Throughout our working relationship with Bromcom, they have never failed to be receptive to suggestions for change both to existing software and to any extensions. Even if a school suggests an improvement to benefit the school itself, it is noted by Bromcom as a possible enhancement on a future release.

Bromcom Modules

The school began to use the e-Markbook system to record assessment data which enabled staff to work in school and at home when necessary with all the information collected automatically in a central database.

e-Reporting has now been superseded by the **e-Assessment** system which was developed to be browser based and even easier to both set up and to use. Staff are able to access assessment datasets quickly and easily, Heads of Departments can check on all the assessments inputted by their staff to ensure completion by deadlines and to look at progress by particular sets of pupils against set targets.

We are looking forward to the newest **e-Analysis** module to allow far more in-depth analysis of examination and other data held in the MIS database.

Teacher Access

The introduction of the **Teacher's WebFolder** now means that all staff have registers, assessment, behaviour and relevant information about their students in a single application. This, combined with any messages, Alerts and Cover details means immediate access to everything staff need in one place. The advent of the mobile version of Teacher's WebFolder now means that staff can use smartphones or tablets to input data and often more importantly to access information without having to be at a desktop or laptop.



The Vice-Principal thought that this was very powerful as he could now carry around all the information needed to deal with students and even parents/guardians.

The fact that the system is web based is a bonus for us as it means that there is only a single client side application that needs to be validated by our managed service provider. Updates are applied once centrally and the latest versions of stand alone software such as e-Timetable are available for download directly from the server.

The MIS has matured into its present level and this is fully configurable to enable appropriate levels of access to the data. Depending upon the needs of the user, data can be made read only except to the relevant users. All the modules including e-Reporting, e-Exams e-Assessment, e-Behaviour, e-Curriculum, e-Contact, e-Cover, e-Messaging, e-Registration, MCAS and e-Administration fit seamlessly together and information can be extracted via built in or user defined reports.

The reporting system works as part of a document management system which links documents to individual students for ease of access. Leasowes is now starting to explore this facility to enable automatic creation of individual student reports on a termly basis. One major advantage of the MIS is the ability to make changes to the Curriculum timetable within the MIS itself. This is a particular benefit if departments want to change students in teaching classes at any time.

The school now has at least one member of staff from each department who can log in to the MIS and make the changes when they need to, this immediately updates teaching group registers and assessment classes, transferring any previous assessment data automatically. Departments, in particular Maths , PE and Science find this a real plus as they no longer have to provide lists for administrative staff and then wait until the changes are made. The Maths department has been able to use this to make rapid changes to help with their drive to target specific groups of students to improve examination results in year 11.

Parental Engagement

e-Contact allows the school to set specific parameters to enable SMS messages to be sent for all or groups of students, this is usually used for absence notifications, but could easily be set for informing parents about arrival times for students on extended trips.

Parental access to information about their child is provided by the MyChildAtSchool portal which links securely with the school server to provide all the information the school has made available using a simple web based interface. This enables the school, and parents/guardians to provide information for each other. Parents have access to up to the minute attendance, behaviour and assessment information and the school can receive changes of contact details which, once verified, can be added to the MIS system with a single button press. Response to this system has been positive as a number of parents are using the system and we have already had quite a number of contact details change requests.

Implementing Bromcom

We have found that staff have needed very little training to use the system, and its ease of use and functionality have meant more and more staff are accessing specific student data for their teaching or Tutor groups. The emphasis on creating a staff centred web-based system has been central in promoting the uptake of the system. Staff have said that it really very simple to use and that they think that access from home will improve it even further.

Andy Hulse, Data Manager. Leasowes Community College

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