

School Background

South Shields Community School opened in April 2007 following the amalgamation of two local schools, Brinkburn and King George V. The school provides a high quality education for approximately 800 11-16 students. Currently operating out of the previous Brinkburn site, the school is eagerly awaiting the opening of their new school building on the site of King George V due to open in 2011. The school is expected to increase its intake and will shortly take on a 6th form. To support their aspirations to provide the best possible education from their new accommodation, South Shields changed to the Bromcom MIS in Easter 2010.



The Challenge

"We tried the rest and have now chosen the best"- the Management team, South Shields Community School.

South Shields Community School previously used Serco Facility MIS for 4 years before we considered moving to another service provider. We had begun to experience some minor issues and software restraints in the MIS which subsequently forced us to look for an alternative.

We had used Bromcom's Attendance Module with the SIMS MIS previously. When we moved away from SIMS, Bromcom had not completed the development of a comprehensive Management Information System. However, when the need came to change again we found that their solution was the best on offer. Before implementation we received full on site training from Bromcom trainers which proved to be informative and very helpful as some of the training was conducted on our own data.

We have now fully implemented the MIS package and have developed and tailored it to our individual and specific needs. The attendance package provides us with up to the minute individual and whole school attendance analysis and real time lesson by lesson monitoring, we have tailored many of the system reports to allow us to track faculty attendance and specific lesson attendance within a department. The analysis reports built into the module are both comprehensive and easy to use. Regular reports are automatically produced and distributed without any user intervention.

Reporting

We have also been able to customise the e-Assessment module to complement our reporting schedule and assessment windows. We have been able to completely define our own very targeted and specific areas for assessment and successfully report on them. Our full and interim student reports are easily produced, are very clear and show far more information than we could on the previous MIS.

Within the e-Assessment module we have also been able to write our own PLPs, IEPs and IBPs without the need to purchase another piece of software to bolt onto Bromcom. This has allowed us to create specific user defined drop downs and targets resulting in a substantial saving in staff admin time which was previously a laborious task. The SEN register is also maintained effectively using e-Assessment.

The Reporting, Admin and Examination modules are intuitive, very easy to access and contain all the information we need to see at very few clicks of a button. There are no complicated and extensive drop down menus ensuring that staff access the information they need very quickly.



Teacher Access

Our teaching staff use Teacher's Webfolder to register attendance, log behaviour events, access cover registers, and interact with e-Assessment. We have had an incredibly positive response from staff using the application and we are very happy with the ease of use and consistency of Webfolder. We have experienced little or no down time with the service which instils confidence and reliability in all who use it.

Parental Engagement

South Shields Community School has also rolled out MyChildAtSchool to all parents of students in Years 7 -11. With an initial test bed of two year groups only we received such positive and encouraging feedback from parents we decided to deliver the product to all parents well in advance of our implementation date. We now have in excess of 100 parents logging onto MCAS weekly to view the student profile of their son or daughter. In feedback conversations parents have said it is easy and effective and fits into their daily routine, one parent said it was as easy as logging on and using Facebook! We regularly use MCAS to inform parents of events and meetings within the school.

The transition from one MIS to another is always problematic and fraught with difficulty; however with comprehensive training, regular site visits and phone calls with Bromcom we can safely say we are well on the way to developing the Bromcom MIS to achieve maximum usage and expertise in all modules. The staff feel confident and comfortable using the system and developing their own reports to reflect their day to day tasks. Bromcom is always ready to listen to ideas for adding more features and making improvement.



New open learning areas

The Senior Management team and Governors are now provided with accurate and timely data which allows them to apply effective curriculum ideas and intervention, targeting areas using the data to achieve the best for each and every one of our students.

Andrea Beckett, Data and Examinations Manager, South Shields Community School.

For more information and to arrange a demo please contact the Bromcom Sales Office on **020 8695 8080** or email **sales@bromcom.com**

www.Bromcom.com

Bromcom Computers Plc

Kelvin House
Worsley Bridge Road
London SE26 5BS

Tel: 020 8695 8080
Fax: 020 8695 8090

Web: www.bromcom.com
Email: info@bromcom.com

Department for
Education
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