



Instantly streamlining school efficiencies

The Angmering School, located in Angmering, West Sussex is a specialist Sports and Science College which caters for mixed learners aged between 11-18 years. Marc Ginnaw IT Manager explains the benefits of Groupcall's Emerge for the school.

Convenience at hand

I first encountered Groupcall Emerge after seeking a new handheld solution for register taking; we had previously been using Bromcom for registration and were using PDAs (personal digital systems) for PE registers on the field. However, we stopped using Bromcom for lesson registering as we started using the SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) and needed lesson marks to show on it. The marks from Bromcom do not show in SLG but the marks from SIMS Lesson Monitor do. We had hoped to use SLG on our Windows Mobile Devices but the Internet browsers we tested with didn't work well enough.



We are currently using Groupcall Emerge for registration in both the morning and afternoon and also for registration during periods one to five and this has had a significantly positive impact. In PE lessons for example, taking registers outside on the field is impractical and inconvenient for the teacher. The logistics of carrying out and marking students via paper-based registers can be difficult, particularly in disagreeable weather conditions and being located near the coast we are often familiar with this! Therefore, the ability to conduct registration via a handheld device is excellent!

Groupcall's Emerge particularly appealed due to immediately being user-friendly; it presented a fast and simple solution. I was instantly able to recognise its benefits for real-time registering, something we were restricted in completing due to digital registers not being taken regularly. However, Emerge solves this problem as it provides up-to-date and accurate information, and with parents now logging on from home to view their child's attendance and academic information, there is a greater need to ensure the details they access are up-to-date.



Time spent on administration tasks is reduced hugely as Emerge provides support in terms of being able to provide staff with immediate information regarding student timetables. The need to physically search for a student across the school is removed; all that staff need do is search on the handheld device to locate the person in question.

Resourceful teaching

In today's society it is crucial to consider how to maximise the usage of educational tools and Emerge provides a key opportunity. Not only can we use the iPods and iPhones with Emerge, we also integrate the hardware into everyday learning; we are able to connect the devices to projectors in various lessons to inject excitement into learning. For example, in a foreign language class the iPod can be used to play podcasts in foreign languages or in a geography lesson to connect to the Internet and present images of a particular country.

The emerging future

I can see Emerge will be particularly useful for off-site visits where there can often be a requirement for instant access to student's personal information, such as medical data. For example, should a student fall ill and require possible medical attention, the power of being able to immediately find these details regarding possible allergies is huge. Planning for off-site trips is time-consuming, yet with Emerge providing this information in a hand-held device, the teacher's workload can be reduced through not needing to compile a student file prior to each school trip. The result is a far more efficient and faster process and means staff time can be better spent on activity planning, for example. Processes can further be facilitated through staff members not needing to manually enter information taken from a paper-based register. Emerge has proven extremely useful for registration and we've been particularly impressed with its ability to automatically update to the MIS when back within wireless range; a time-saving positive for all teachers.



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