



CASE STUDY:

Highgate Wood School Arts College, based in Haringey, North London was founded as a comprehensive school in 1967 and currently accommodates 1,400 students aged between 11-16 plus 200 staff.

Until 1987 the school was located on two sites with a lower school for students in year 7 and 8 plus an upper school for years 9 to 11 and the sixth form. Some of the original buildings still stand today, converted into modern flats above shops. The upper school now houses the whole school including sixth form, computer centre, tennis courts and a sports hall.

The school seeks to create an environment in which all students can achieve their full potential, including the highest standards of academic achievement.

Tristan Ashman is the Head of elearning and communications and has been with Highgate for 11 years. Here Tristan explains why they chose Groupcall Messenger as their parental communication system of choice.

“Groupcall Messenger is the parental communication system of choice for over 2,500 schools throughout the UK and we were looking for a solution in order to contact our parents quickly and efficiently.

As we were already a Groupcall customer using Xporter (their automated solution for securely transferring and delivering data), our Local Authority recommended Groupcall Messenger to us as part of a core service.

The implementation and installation was simple and straightforward. The training received was great and as part of the service, they offer unlimited online training and support. In fact, Groupcall’s support team are excellent and the after-sales service is good too.

Groupcall is now a central part of our communications system and is vital for every day activities. We have used Messenger to send attendance alerts and information to parents/carers about events, Ofsted visits and to inform parents that the school would be closed due to snow. The system really does allow us to send messages immediately to students and families as and when required and has proved invaluable in the case of an emergency.”

Tristan continues, "The feedback from our employees is that Messenger is one of the relatively few aspects of ICT in a school that is absolutely reliable and works!

Before using Messenger, we would have to make individual telephone calls to parents and this would take up valuable time and money.

Messenger is definitely cheaper than sending text messages through other systems. The fact that we intend to maintain the contract under current economic realities demonstrates its value for money."

Tristan concludes: "Groupcall Messenger is now so embedded into our communication streams that it is hard to remember how we managed without it."

For further information on Groupcall's range of products, please call: 020 8502 7344, email: sales@groupcall.com or visit: www.groupcall.com