

safe in our knowledge



CLIENT: WESTGATE SCHOOL – a designated Business & Enterprise College, based in Slough, admits pupils of all abilities. Currently there are 801 boys and girls attending and this number is expected to grow towards 900 over the next three years.

CHALLENGE: To implement a Virtual Learning Platform (VLP) that will allow both pupils and teachers to securely access schoolwork from their home PC, or indeed any PC anywhere in the world.

TIMESCALE: November 1996 to June 2007

FEE BASIS: Signature Network Business Aid Programme 2006 prize winner.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To conduct an in-depth appraisal of all the commercially-available platforms and short-list three to present to the school
2. To ensure that the school's precious financial resources are wisely invested in a practical and easy-to-use solution.

APPROACH: After thoroughly investigating the school's current and future needs, we researched service availability, attended exhibitions, talked to and visited schools and further education establishments and evaluated the list of potential suppliers. These were narrowed down to three for a final presentation made to the school. As part of the consultancy, Signature Network provided the school with its own recommendation on the way forward.

RESULTS: The school had previously invested in a system, which proved unsuccessful. Therefore, Westgate was most concerned it made the right decision for its future. After careful considering each of the presentations made, the school agreed with Signature Network's recommendation and has just signed a £29,000 connectivity agreement. This is over £45,000 cheaper than the cost of one possible solution, which only covered the basic hardware costs and excluded connectivity. The new VLP will provide a remote learning platform that will empower both pupils and staff to experience the working environment of 'tomorrow's world'.