

## William Morris Sixth Form

William Morris Sixth Form in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was established in 1994 and was the country's first 16-19 school. WMSF is renowned as a centre for inclusive excellence for 16-19 year old students from the area of West London and beyond. The school works in partnership with secondary schools in the borough and also offers places to a wide range of students from across London. Current students come from over 100 different schools or colleges. The school admits students with a wide range of previous qualifications and encourages each individual to progress to their highest attainable levels.

## Overview

WMSF has 803 students and employs 80 academic staff and 41 administrative and support staff. As IT has become a 'must-have' in the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom, schools like WMSF increasingly require additional access and login points to enable staff and students to make use of online and shared resources. The growth in usage of wireless devices and the sheer numbers of access points required for staff and students, was putting pressure on the legacy system, and so a review of the wireless capabilities was required.

## Objectives

- Improve classroom experience of bandwidth access to ensure classes are no longer impeded by the legacy wireless system,
- Improve security and safety of staff and students' information,
- Improve wireless access and speeds to accommodate the growth in number of laptops, and other devices, for staff and student use,
- Improve login access control and the ability to configure new devices seamlessly and efficiently, including personal devices,
- Receive more consistent wireless coverage, better reliability, faster logon times and connection speeds,
- Improve support, at a lower price point, with a simpler more user friendly licensing system.

## Solution

- The wireless infrastructure in the main building has been completely replaced with an Aerohive cooperative control WLAN solution,
- The Aerohive solution enables access to the internet for BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices) on one secure SSID and access to the schools network resources securely, via a second SSID,
- An improved configuration process and interface makes the addition of new devices easier and faster,
- The implementation of a security policy that encompasses a Private Pre shared key infrastructure which means each student and teacher has their own secure key,
- More responsive support that is required less often.

“Ian Tearle of Proximity is a top guy who really knows his stuff. It has been both enjoyable and educational working with him. He is always keen to share his knowledge and experience with us to ensure we get the best out of our system.”

Brandon Farr  
Senior Technical Services  
Technician  
William Morris Sixth Form

## Benefits

- There is now more consistent wireless bandwidth coverage with improved reliability, faster logon times and connection speeds,
- Simple key creation, distribution, and revocation is saving IT administrator time and reducing the cost and complexity of using a single PSK or trying to get hard-to-configure devices online using 802.1X,
- When new students enroll, a simple spreadsheet can be modified to add several hundred new users in a single configuration,
- Classes are no longer held back due to access, speed and bandwidth issues. Personal devices (BYOD) are being used more and more, enabling staff and students to work in a more flexible way, freeing up resources for others to use,
- The IT team can now work with fewer interruptions and concentrate on improving facilities and services,
- Due to the way in which the control software and management is set up, and its ease of use, it is anticipated the need for support will be greatly reduced over the lifetime of the system.