

## Unity City Academy

### **UCA DECIDE TO APPOINT AZZURRI COMMUNICATIONS AS THEIR EDUCATION PARTNER.**

Unity City Academy (UCA) required an “education partner” to work closely with their senior management team and existing technical staff to establish a flexible and integrated 3-5 year ICT strategy.

Demonstrating best value, a proven track record of supplying large scale ICT solutions to educational establishments plus a large relevant service offering compounded UCA's decision to appoint Azzurri Communications as their education partner.

Located in the city centre, with a catchment area of inner city council estates and a large intake of “excluded” students from other schools meant that security was a major problem. Frequent theft and vandalism plus inappropriate building design did not contribute to attainment and effective learning.

UCA has the potential to become one of the most highly effective schools in the country and to ensure that every child fulfils their potential in their chosen field. With a strong commitment to making UCA a better place for both learners and staff, the academy recognised that they needed an experienced team comprising an education ICT specialist and building company to help them turn the academy around.

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### ► **Business Profile**

#### **CHALLENGE**

Improving security, revising the ICT infrastructure, providing for future expansion and developing a more inclusive learning environment were just part of Azzurri's remit. In order to deliver on this Azzurri needed to engage with the senior management team and the building company to design bespoke solutions for the new ICT suites, Science Labs and Vocational Areas (including beauty therapy).

### ► **Industry**

Hardware, networks, projectors and whiteboards, furniture and ancillary items, TALMOS Classroom Manager, Securus tools

### ► **Location**

Unity Academy , U.K.

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### ► Deployment Summary

UCA divided their ICT requirements in to three phases. Phase one focusing on security, phase two handling extension plans and managed services and phase three considering Learning Platform requirements.

UCA's initial focus was to maximise onsite security. Azzurri's integrated ICT and furniture solution, incorporating secure desk units with lockable PC cabinets, hard glass TFT monitors plus all cabling and utilities secured safely out of the students reach, were the first steps to combat theft and vandalism.

Azzurri also designed a bespoke offering for the Science Labs, identified by UCA as a problem area. A secure furniture solution housing a TFT screen secured behind a glass fronted partition, chrome keyboards and an integrated tracker ball sunk into the desk helped to increase security.

Additionally, Azzurri advised UCA to invest in IP CCTV to address equipment vandalism and assist in improving student behaviour. An IPCCTV solution of 106 cameras located inside and outside the classrooms was the ideal solution to monitor the equipment and resources and to provide security for the students and teachers. UCA has the largest IPCCTV installation of its type in Europe.

Starting in October 2006 and progressing through 2007, Azzurri will be providing additional ICT infrastructure as part of UCA's extension plans. We will also look to establish the Managed Service parameters and SLAs, pilot a solution and deploy it Academy wide.

Finally, as phase 2 nears completion, phase 3 will consider the Learning Platform requirements. A solution will be developed that addresses the Governments aspirations on Personalised Learning, Collaboration and Sharing Best Practice. Azzurri is at the heart of this agenda, and is working closely with BECTA on the Learning Platform specifications for 2007.

### ► Benefits

It was important for Unity City Academy to select not just a supplier, but a partner. Offering best value Azzurri proved that we had the financial stability to manage a large project delivered over a number of years, and that we had the educational pedigree to provide realistic and educational ICT advice and guidance to Unity City Academy.

- Affordability
- Centralisation
- Easy to support
- Durability
- Integration
- Flexibility
- Security
- Speed
- Stability
- Standardisation