

A Private Cloud Case Study:

All Hallows Catholic
High School

The Situation

All Hallows Catholic High School in Lancashire is a designated Technology and Language College that has also been categorised as a leading edge school.

The school has a history of ICT innovation, and through working with virtualDCS the school was an early adaptor of virtualisation technology. As part of their continuing ICT programme, the ageing platform was ready for an upgrade in order to take advantage of the latest technological developments.

Working with virtualDCS the school's I.T. facilities were consolidated to a virtual platform, making All Hallows Catholic High School one of the first schools in the country to benefit from these advantages.

A complicating factor was the timescale available to complete the project. virtualDCS had a six day window during the Easter 2010 holiday period, within which to deliver all the improvements.

“I'm pleased to say that we managed to beat even that target, and successfully completed the project in plenty of time for the new school term”
said John Murray, Operations Director at virtualDCS.



The Response

The virtualDCS team upgraded All Hallows' environment to the latest VMware vSphere technology, the most trusted and reliable virtualisation platform in the industry.

The system replaced by virtualDCS used a VMware 3.01 platform with ageing Windows 2000 based servers, and limited remote access capability.

The team migrated the entire platform to Windows 2008 R2, and updated their e-mail solution from MS Exchange 2000 to MS Exchange 2010.

The new VMware vSphere platform provides high availability, improved performance and reliability in addition to reduced downtime, and improved ROI.

As part of the project, virtualDCS also enabled remote access to full desktop and smart phones such as the Apple iPhone.

“This offers new levels of reliability and performance with features that simplified administration, helped protect communications, and optimised growing demands for greater mobility,” explains John.

Through upgrading the platform the school increased the productivity, security, reliability and flexibility of its I.T. facilities, for both staff and students.



All Hallows Catholic High School
A DFE designated Technology College,
Language College and Leading Edge School

The Result

Expressing delight at what virtualDCS has accomplished, Richard Adamson, ICT Manager at the school said, “As promised the work was completed to an extremely high standard and the new term began without any problems.

On-going support in the shape of personal visits by the virtualDCS team and responsive remote assistance and guidance was also made available, as an integral part of their offering.

I must confess to being a little apprehensive at our ability to complete the necessary work in the time available. It quickly became clear, however, that I was dealing with an extremely professional and competent organisation.

It was refreshing to outsource to a team so clearly willing and able to provide such outstanding customer service.

To summarise, virtualDCS is a highly impressive company which I would implicitly trust to undertake any future ICT projects, and would happily recommend them to other organisations.”

After the success of this project, All Hallows Catholic High School is currently working with virtualDCS to upgrade its existing storage system.

For more information on virtualDCS and its services, please call +44 (0)3453 888 327.