> Working with our partners Toshiba and XMA has enabled us to create the most state-of-the-art teaching environment in the country
>
> - Sanjesh Sharma
> Assistant Principal of ICT and Core Services
> Djanogly City Academy

Innovation rewarded

The success of the Djanogly City Academy project has not gone unnoticed. In October 2005, Lord Andrew Adonis, the schools minister, presented Djanogly with the Futures Vision Award, which recognises schools for innovation in information, communication and technology.

“We’re very proud to have been recognised for the work we’re doing here,” concludes Sanjesh Sharma. “Working with our partners Toshiba and XMA has enabled us to create the most state-of-the-art teaching environment in the country. Everyday, we have visitors from all over the UK who come to learn about what we’ve established, and I hope many other schools will benefit from our experience.”

For More Information

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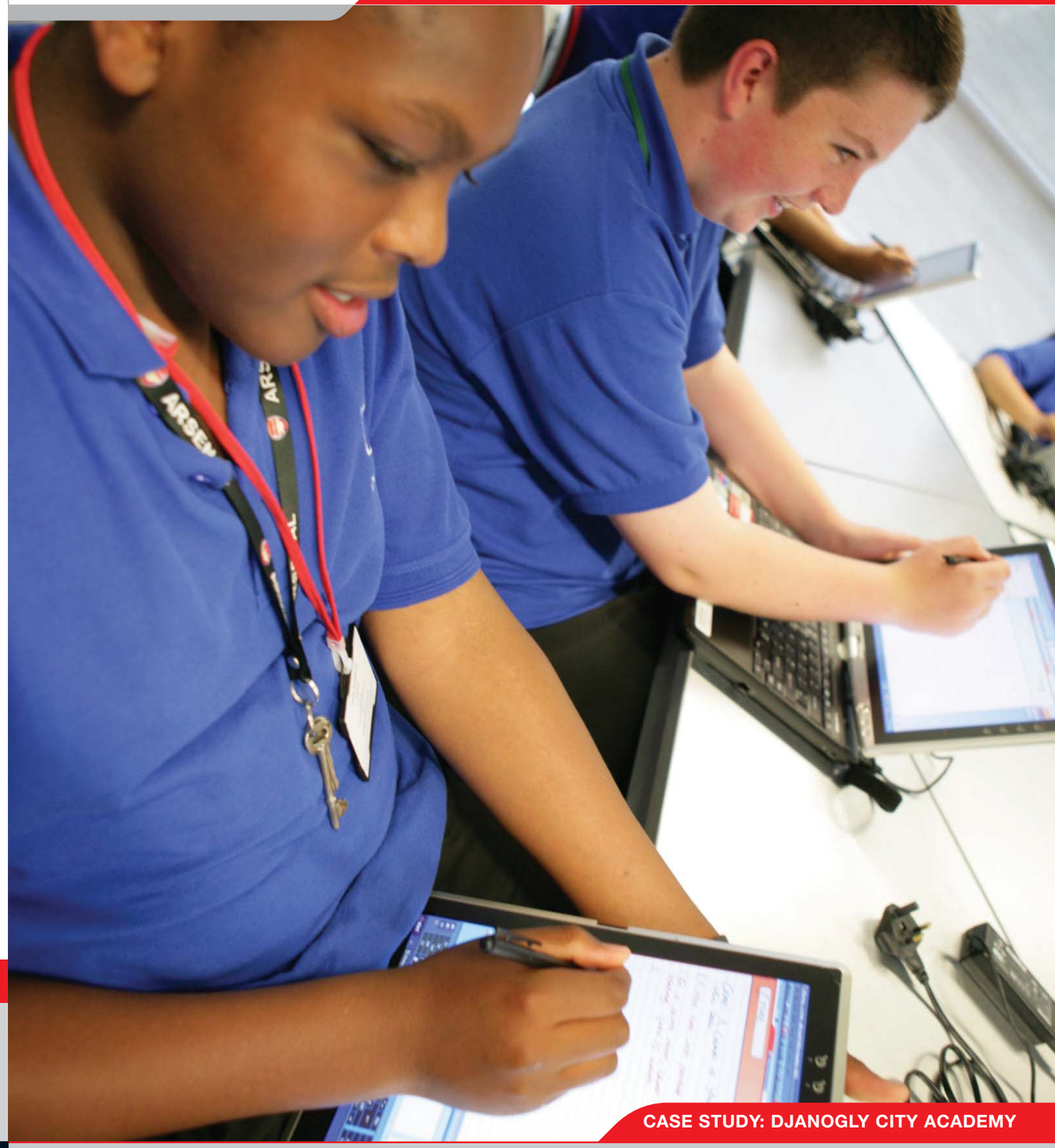

CASE STUDY: DJANOGLY CITY ACADEMY

Toshiba takes Djanogly City Academy to the top of the class

Toshiba takes Djanogly City Academy to the top of the class

At Djanogly City Academy, innovation is taught in every lesson.

Djanogly was one of the first schools in the country to achieve City Academy status in 2003. The new school's objective was to improve the educational standards for its pupils by using ICT to develop and enhance the teaching and learning environment.

To help it achieve this, Djanogly worked with Toshiba to pioneer the way technology is used in education.

A fresh start

Djanogly City Academy was formed in 2003 following the merger of the former Forest Comprehensive School and Djanogly City Technical College.

At the heart of the City Academy project is Djanogly's new £12m school building, on the site of the former Forest Comprehensive. The new site gave the staff the opportunity to rethink how technology is used by the pupils and teachers on a daily basis, as Sanjesh Sharma, assistant principal in charge of ICT and Core Services at Djanogly, explains;

"Traditionally, ICT in schools has been taught in isolation from other subjects, but that doesn't reflect how ICT is used outside of school.

At home and at work, computers are a normal part of daily life. At Djanogly, we wanted to integrate technology into every lesson, and make using a computer as everyday as pen and paper."

To achieve these aims, Djanogly decided to build technology into the fabric of the new school building. The plan was to provide every pupil and teacher with a laptop and each classroom with a wireless projector. Every user would be connected to the school network wirelessly, creating a flexible, dynamic environment.

Djanogly selected Toshiba partner XMA, a specialist in public sector and educational ICT implementations, to carry out the work. XMA has worked with Toshiba on a number of educational projects in the past, and knew that its products have performed well in what can be demanding environments.

XMA began work in January 2005, and the implementation was completed in time for the last term of the school year in June 2005.

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>
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> Assistant Principal of ICT and Core Services
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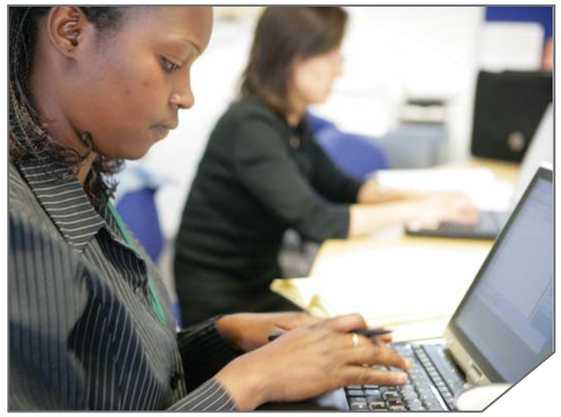

From text book to history book

Text books and blackboards have been done away with for most lessons. Each classroom has a rack cabinet of Toshiba Portégé M200 Tablet PCs, and a Toshiba tw90 wireless projector. There are over 700 Tablets in total, ensuring every pupil has their own PC during most of their classes. As the pupils enter their classroom, they simply select a machine and log onto the school network via the wireless network.

The Tablet PCs were selected for their versatility. Pupils can read their lessons and enter their work directly onto the Tablet using all the usual Office applications. But by simply flipping the screen around, they can write directly onto any document, just as they would with pen and paper. Furthermore, the tablets can be used to record any oral work and replay it to the class, or whole school, through an audio system built into every classroom.

Working electronically has vastly reduced the weight of paper both teachers and pupils once found essential for the school day. Once a pupil completes a piece of work, it can be emailed directly to the teacher for marking. Teachers can mark directly onto the work using the Tablet's pen, and email it back to the pupil.

The benefits for the teaching experience itself are considerable. The teachers Tablet PCs are connected to the wireless projector in each room, enabling them to deliver lesson content to the class. Because all the content comes from the Tablet PC, a far greater mix of media can be used, including voice, video and the Internet. This helps make lessons a much more interactive experience for the pupils.

Djanogly also makes full use of the mobility provided by the wireless system.

Wireless access liberates teachers from their traditional place in front of the class. They can now sit anywhere in the room, for instance with a particular pupil, and still deliver information to the whole class from their Tablet PC via the projector.

Indeed, staff are no longer restricted to the same room. Teachers can select up to four classrooms anywhere in the school and project lesson information. This is particularly useful should a regular member of staff be absent. Another teacher can project lesson content into the class, providing a substitute teacher with relevant work for the pupils to use.

One of the most successful results of the technology in use at Djanogly is its ability to break down barriers between subjects. As Sharma explains;

"Using the tablets, all our teaching staff can easily access information on lesson plans for other classes. This access provides lots of ideas for exploring a particular theme through a number of different subjects and with a range of different media, and give pupils a much broader and richer view of a particular topic."