ARUBA NETWORKS CUSTOMER STORY | EDUCATION

STUARTHOLME SCHOOL

Stuartholme School deploys Aruba Networks solution, allowing staff and students to embrace paperless learning

STUARTHOLME SCHOOL

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BENEFITS:

- Leverages Aruba Networks 802.11ac wireless solution for secure, high performance wireless that supports the teaching and learning demands
- Efficient and constantly reliable Wi-Fi for more than 650 students and 100 teachers and admin staff
- Allows teachers to conduct outdoor learning activities
- Ability for students at the boarding house to access a secure Wi-Fi network out of school hours to continue learning and stay connected with family
- Utilises AirWave management system supplying the IT team with visibility across the entire Wi-Fi network

Stuartholme School is an Independent Catholic day and boarding school for girls in years seven to 12 located in Toowong, an inner suburb of Brisbane, Queensland. Educating over 650 students and employing 100 teachers and admin staff, the secondary school prides itself on embracing technology driven by its iLearn education program. This program aims to empower students with anywhere, anytime learning in a connected, online and interactive community.

Technology is an essential element integrated into the student learning and teaching agenda at Stuartholme School. The school implements a one-to-one program, whereby every student is assigned a Toshiba Tablet PC, which is used in every aspect of their education and learning. The entire school is almost paperless, with students using the Tablet PC's Stylus to 'write' on their Tablet screens, substituting the use of pens, notebooks and notepads in the classroom. Students at Stuartholme complete and submit all their work electronically via their Tablet PC device, teachers mark student submissions and send feedback to students all via the use of their Tablet PC.

According to Peter Harvey, ICT Director at Stuartholme School, "Technology at Stuartholme School is at the core of how our teachers educate and how our students learn. It is essential that we have the right infrastructure in place that enables us to use technology in every aspect of our education program."

"We are a 24/7 school. As Stuartholme is a boarding school, it is integral we have a dependable and effective Wi-Fi network, as we don't have any 'down time' to amend any technical issues. Aruba Networks has never let us down."

"Moving from 802.11n to 802.11ac required little consideration. Upgrading didn't involve further costs and allowed the school to move further towards providing an all-wireless solution to staff and students. Our prior 802.11n solution successfully set the standard and certainly delivered on the requirements expected by parents, staff and students. The 802.11ac solution, however, has been the cherry on top of an already brilliant solution, and has exceeded our expectations."

Peter Harvey,
ICT Director, Stuartholme School

MEETING THE NEEDS OF A TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN SCHOOL

Stuartholme School implemented Aruba's 802.11n wireless networking solution in 2010, installing 80 access points throughout the campus. In 2013, Aruba Networks released its 802.11ac next generation, high-performance wireless solution. Stuartholme School quickly adopted the latest all-wireless solution to market, implementing the advanced technology by the end of 2013. Attracted by the more secure and stable network delivered by the Aruba 802.11ac solution, the school deployed 90 access points around the school. At the time of the deployment, and integration of 802.11ac, the school also rolled out a new set of 'fully functional' Tablet PCs, supplying each of the students with a new device that would work seamlessly with the new wireless network and were 802.11ac compatible.

Harvey states, "Moving from 802.11n to 802.11ac required little consideration. Upgrading didn't involve further costs and allowed the school to move further towards providing an all-wireless solution to staff and students. Our prior 802.11n solution successfully set the standard and certainly delivered on the requirements expected by parents, staff and students. The 802.11ac solution, however, has been the cherry on top of an already brilliant solution, and has exceeded our expectations."

WI-FI SPANS FAR BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Stuartholme offers an extensive curriculum to students, driven by a philosophy that learning is a meaningful experience, involving learning practices within and beyond the classroom. The 802.11ac solution has enabled the school to provide Wi-Fi access at the tennis courts, pool and outdoor learning areas, throughout the boarding house, as well as in residential staff accommodation.

At present, approximately 150 students are living in the school's boarding house, where they continue to use their assigned Tablet PCs to complete schoolwork and also use these devices for personal use out of school hours.

Harvey states that in residential areas on campus "It's critical to have a dependable and secure Wi-Fi network, as these spaces are where students not only continue learning and working, but they are also connecting with their friends and loved ones."

MEETING EVERY NEED OF THE 24/7 HIGH SCHOOL

At the school, upwards of 600 users are accessing the Wi-Fi network at any one time, so it's important the school has a wireless network that can cope with many users onboarding at once.

With all the provided Tablet PC devices attached to the school domain, students simply login on their Tablet PC and are automatically connected to the Wi-Fi network. Additionally, once provided with a username and password, guests, casual teachers and visiting students, can also easily access and use the secure enterprise mobility solution.

Harvey explains, "We have found with the solution we have eliminated technical support requests, and more over, the wireless network is so smart, that it differentiates between different users, identifying student or teacher use and either restricts or allows the access required, depending on the individual."

Stuartholme School also utilises Aruba's AirWave technology to manage the entire wireless and wired network environment. The platform allows Harvey to easily see who is connected to the network, where they are located, and what devices they are using.

"We often have students reporting their Tablet PCs as 'misplaced'. Airwave provides a visual, real-time display of where each device is on campus, so it is very easy for us to locate where the tablet was last used."

ARUBA ALLOWS IT DIRECTOR TO SHIFT FOCUS ELSEWHERE

Harvey, in his role as ICT Director at Stuartholme School, works with a team of five. The project team looks after everything technical-from a power plug to electronic locks and security cameras. In terms of the impact Aruba's 802.11ac technology has had on Harvey's day-to-day role, Harvey states; "Since implementing Aruba's 802.11ac solution, our wireless network has been a case of 'set and forget'- it just works. We are receiving positive feedback from all users and there have been no technical requests. This allows me to focus on my role, not on fixing technical issues. Since implemented, it has required little attention".

ARUBA TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL'S FUTURE TECHNOLOGY ENDEAVOURS

According to Harvey, "We are looking at expanding our virtual classroom capabilities to provide more options for learning – particularly for those students who travel back home to visit their families overseas. We want to offer video conferencing capabilities that allow teachers to easily record themselves in the classroom so students can review the lesson anytime, anywhere.

"At present, we are looking to extend the use of collaboration with a focus on other multi-media and collaboration platforms. We now have the capability to integrate an all-wireless solution at Stuartholme School – something we are really excited about," continued Harvey.