

DfES Interactive Whiteboard Funding - An overnight success story at Darrick Wood School



There is a buzz of excitement first thing in the morning at Darrick Wood School, as children from Orpington in Kent gather together for registration. Smartly dressed in their distinctive brown and yellow uniforms, it is clear from observing in the reception area that the staff and students are proud of their well equipped, highly performing school. The trophy cupboard gleams, bulging at the seams with award wins both on and off the playing field and the school's last Ofsted inspection was equally complementary, highly praising the school where "good teaching leads to very high standards and very good examination results."

The classrooms are well equipped, well looked after and boast a multitude of high quality work on the walls. Darrick Wood teachers certainly know how to make the most of the technology available to them. It is therefore no surprise that, following a DfES announcement that £25 million of funding was available for schools to purchase interactive whiteboards, Darrick Wood was the first school in Bromley LEA - and one of the first in the country - to jump at the opportunity.

Government funding well spent

Just over a month after the funding was announced, Darrick Wood's 10 maths classrooms were proudly displaying their gleaming new Hitachi Cambridge Boards and projectors, wall mounted into each classroom by one of Becta's approved suppliers local to the school, CDEC.

Mr. Hewan Ormson, the school's Deputy Head, was instrumental in the school's procurement of its whiteboards and directed the school through the process. "From start to finish, getting 10 interactive whiteboards into every classroom in our maths department was totally seamless. There were no forms to fill in and administration was kept to a very pleasing minimum."



CDEC is one of the eight leading audio visual suppliers to the education sector in the UK, accredited by Becta to provide interactive whiteboards as part of the initiative. The suppliers underwent a vigorous selection process to meet the

HITACHI
Inspire the Next



exact standards required by the scheme, including product quality; standard of technical support; financial standing; average time from order to delivery; quality of after sales support and standard of training.

Mr. Ormson was particularly impressed with the speed and professionalism of the installation. "The interactive whiteboard initiative has proved extremely successful at Darrick Wood. There was a range of equipment to choose from but the simple selection procedure made it easy to navigate through the options. We chose to install Hitachi's Cambridge Boards and projectors as durability and accuracy were essential criteria for us. CDEC also highly recommended the Cambridge Boards as the best option available to us." There was minimal disruption to the day-to-day running of the school, and within days the maths department had an interactive whiteboard in each of its classrooms.

Dawn Denyer has been Head of Maths at Darrick Wood for just over a year and is expert in the use of interactive whiteboards. "It was decided that the funding should be used to equip one department at a time, so that the school could better manage the implementation of its new technology. This has worked particularly well, as hints and tips can be shared and the learning curve is speeded up by concentrating all efforts in one area."

Darrick Wood obtained six quotes for interactive whiteboards to present to Bromley LEA as part of the procurement process, highlighting the option the school wanted to proceed with. Following the highly successful

procurement and installation, Darrick Wood School now plans to equip all of the core subject classrooms with Cambridge Boards and Hitachi projectors, giving staff and students the chance to use the latest interactive technology in all of their core subjects and across all year groups.



Maths lessons get interactive with Hitachi's whiteboards

Watching a maths lesson at Darrick Wood is inspiring. Graphs, charts, fractions and simultaneous equations are tackled with confidence and the students are eager to demonstrate their skills on the new interactive whiteboards. Dawn Denyer has noticed that concepts traditionally difficult to demonstrate are easier to grasp with the help of the new technology. "Reflections, enlargements and transformations are easier to explain with the help of an interactive visual aid. Simultaneous equations have also become easier to demonstrate, and students are able to participate in the formation of an equation with ease. This helps them to remember the processes involved and gives them more confidence to tackle problems on their own."

With an area dedicated to maths lessons on the school's network, teachers are also able to share resources effectively, which frees up valuable teaching time. Another immediate impact has been on the school's financial resources - since the introduction of the interactive whiteboards, photocopying costs have been dramatically reduced as all work is saved to the central network and can be easily shared.

Becta funding an immediate success

The interactive whiteboard initiative has proved a fast and effective way to provide first class teaching tool to Darrick Wood School. From the evaluation and selection of Hitachi's Cambridge Boards, to the installation and training, the process has been simple and smooth. Teachers and students were immediately incorporating a wide range of multimedia into maths lessons, including innovative software, DVDs, sound and graphics and the school is looking forward to equipping the English and Science departments with the same technology as soon as possible.

About Hitachi's Cambridge Board
The Cambridge Board is the most advanced interactive teaching aid on the market, offering unparalleled durability, speed and accuracy. Linked to a PC and projector it can help build exciting dynamic and inspirational lessons through its unique suite of software, which is easy to use and fully customisable. The Cambridge Board can capture data faster than most people can write, so there are none of the delays inherent in some competitive products, which can interrupt the natural rhythm of a teacher in full creative flow. Capturing pen strokes at around 3 metres per second at a resolution higher than most desktop printers, the Cambridge Board is the fastest and most accurate whiteboard available.

**Hitachi Software
Engineering (UK) Limited**
19 Heather Park Drive
Wembley, London, HA0 1SS
Tel: +44-20-8902-1286
www.hitachisoft-eu.com
info@hitachisoft-eu.com

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

www.cambridgeboard.com