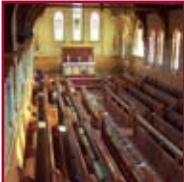




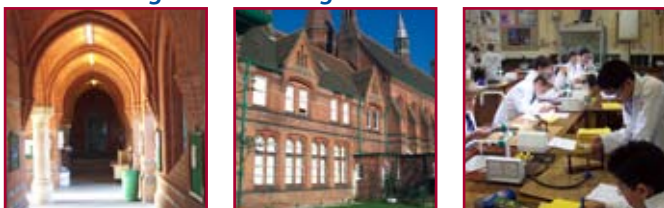
How Reading School increased seating capacity by nearly 50% in the same classroom area



How Reading School increased seating capacity - in the same ICT classroom area!

Reading School is a Selective School for Boys and a Specialist Humanities College, serving both day pupils and boarders. It is one of the oldest Schools in England, thought by some to be Saxon in origin, but most likely to have been established in 1125. Reading School is not only distinguished by its age, but also by its academic record and traditions. In 2005 it achieved the highest A-level pass rate in England.

www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk



The Akhter Partnership

Akhter Computers has been serving Reading School since 1998. Over the years, it has installed networks in the School and Boarding Houses and has carried out a huge amount of cabling work, including fibre runs and wireless pockets that are sympathetic to the listed buildings' architecture. Akhter has also installed user friendly network management software and helped to configure Microsoft SharePoint on the network to provide the infrastructure for curriculum delivery. Akhter has also equipped the school to broadcast video across the network with its powerful VidFlow system. Most recently, it has supplied innovative desks for Reading School's Learning Resource Centre.

The Desk8 Design

In early 2006 Humayun Mughal, Akhter's founder and chairman, designed a range of desks; primarily for IT use, but equally suitable for standard learning or office environments. Humayun's experience and contact with education professionals led him to believe that there was a requirement for a value for money system that was robust, flexible and secure; with a tidy cable management system.



VESA compliant LCD screen is secured to the monitor arm, deterring theft

Desktop surface is kept clear maximising work space

High durability desktop uses 25mm laminated MDF

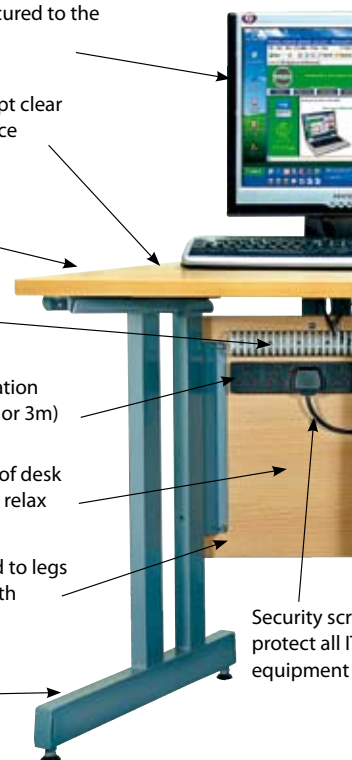
Cable management for hazard free workspace

4-way adaptor on each IT workstation 2m lead standard, (option for 1m or 3m)

Modesty panel covers full width of desk allowing self-conscious pupils to relax

Modesty panel is security bolted to legs raising Desk8's structural strength

Epoxy powder coated steel frame ensures long-term durability.



Security screws protect all IT equipment

Reading School's Requirement

When Mrs Margaret McDonald (Head of ICT) and Mrs Beverley Taylor (Learning Resource Manager) were looking for new desks for the Reading School Learning Resource Centre, they had some specific requirements in mind; "I wanted a system that could be configured to accommodate the requirements of the different groups that use the Centre. Previously, we had four large rectangular tables, with four PCs on each one. Sometimes we had to fit five boys to a desk, which was most uncomfortable" said Mrs McDonald. "Because of cabling restrictions and the desk sizes, it was not easy to move desks around, limiting alternative layouts". In addition, Mrs Taylor sought a more contemporary style, to complement other furniture in the building.

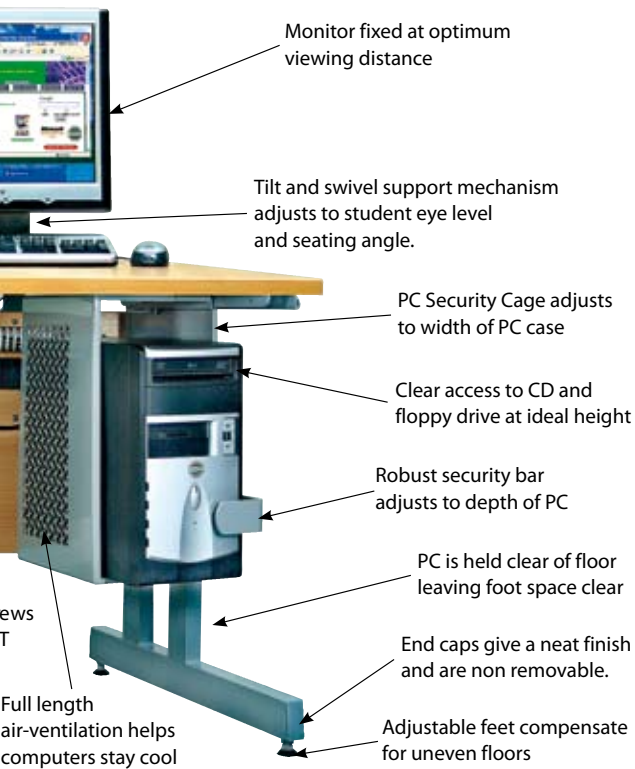


BEFORE: Four desks, with seating for 16 or a very cramped 20!

01279 821200

www.Akhter.co.uk

by nearly 50%



The Desk8 Solution

Reading School's Akhter account manager Gavin Clucas mentioned Desk8 to Mrs McDonald and Mrs Taylor, and they asked for a sample desk. "The individual desks looked small in the brochure" said Mrs McDonald. "When the sample arrived it was compact, but bigger than I thought. It could accommodate a keyboard or notebook comfortably, with room for books if required. Gavin planned a layout to show we could fit 29 desks into the Centre's upper room. The configuration allowed for many more desks than I had hoped for AND plenty of room between groups for people to walk".



AFTER: Mrs Taylor and Gavin Clucas survey the new desks

A Flexible Area

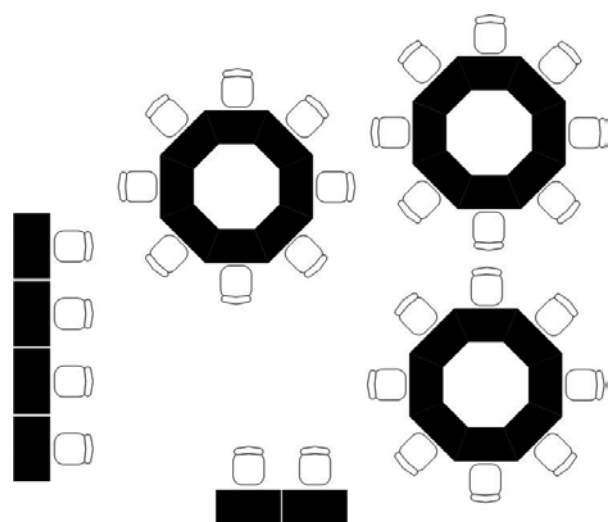
The upstairs of the Learning Resource Centre is a flexible room with audio-visual equipment and a wireless network (installed by Akhter). Students go there for individual study and research, class groups use it as an occasional alternative to classrooms or laboratories with fewer IT facilities and school clubs often take it over at lunchtimes and after school. Unlike regular classrooms, it has many different demands placed on it and not all of these would require a standard desk layout.



The Drama Group using the Centre for individual presentations.

Mrs Taylor is pleased with the flexibility offered by Desk8 "Desks are interchangeable, layouts are adaptable and I can buy different infills when I need to. The Resource Centre is booked in advance by different groups and Desk8 gives me the flexibility to have different configurations laid out for each booking where required".

The final floorplan designed for The Reading School by our experienced planners





Secure and Safe

The security aspect of the desks works well at Reading School, where pupils often drop in and out to the Resource Centre for research purposes. Students can leave their notebooks in the secure storage slots while they go into the library area or even take a break for lunch. This feature adds to the flexibility of the Learning Resource Centre, something that Mrs Taylor is keen to encourage.

Mrs McDonald also likes the tidy desks too; *“The cable management keeps the work surface and the area below the desk clear. There’s no way you’ll get your feet tangled up in wiring at a Desk8 desk!”*

Sturdy and Robust

Many standard desks have a 20mm work surface. These are fine for most purposes, but unlikely to be as robust or long lasting as Desk8’s 25mm worktops that are solid MDF, not chipboard. Mrs Taylor is also pleased with the colour *“there is a limited amount of natural light in the Centre and the light colours work well with the artificial light to give a pleasant working environment”*.



Looking to the Future

Now that the upstairs area of the Learning Resource Centre is equipped with new desks, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Taylor are looking at refurbishing the downstairs area; *“In addition to study purposes, I would like to use the centre for meetings for staff as well as local interest groups. The flexibility to change a Desk8 study format into a stylish boardroom layout quite quickly is an exciting prospect”*, Mrs McDonald said, looking forward to using the school more as a resource to the community.



Akhter Desk8 Brochure available from

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