

## Desk8 “A significant contribution to the learning environment”



*Bishop Douglass School is a thriving Secondary School in East Finchley, with specialist Science and Maths status. It is geared to achieve the best for its young people and is progressive in its approach to education, embracing new technology to enhance the learning process. The school is a Catholic community and upholds strong spiritual and moral values, both in and outside the classroom.*

[www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](http://www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk)



### A SCHOOL ON THE RISE!

Following a period of struggle, Bishop Douglass school was awarded specialist Science status in September 2007 and received an outstanding Ofsted report in the following January. The school's fortunes changed largely due to a policy of empowering teachers and developing a safe environment with quality equipment which is conducive to teaching and learning.

Vijay Oza, the schools Project Manager charged with making the change, is clear about his direction; "We recognise that the building and its environment are key to students' success. Part of our investment is in first class equipment and classrooms that are truly conducive to learning, not just rows of desks in front of a teacher. Akhter has helped us to do this because their desks have multiple layout options and save space too, enabling us to bring computers into all learning areas"

### PCs FOR ALL CLASSROOMS

As part of integrating IT into the learning process for all students, the network manager, Krishna Sanapala, was tasked with fitting out six classrooms with PCs for the first time, eventually installing PCs in all of the classrooms.

Krishna had to fit 30 pupils and PCs into each room. With the existing, traditional layout, this would have meant running cables between each pair of desks across aisles as well as from one desk to another within each pair.

### RADICAL NEW LAYOUT REQUIRED

The thought provoked a Health and Safety nightmare! "Short of digging into the floor or running unsightly conduit tubes from floor to ceiling for each pair of desks, the whole room layout needed a radical rethink" said Krishna, "the existing desks were too big to accommodate of my new layout ideas, so I began to look elsewhere."

### ONLY DESK8 MET THE BRIEF

Krishna eventually shortlisted three companies whose desks he was happy with. When each was invited to measure the room and make their proposals, only Akhter was able to fit 30 pupils with computers. "The Akhter solution was a comfortable fit", says Krishna. "and Akhter offered value for money too. The manufacture of Desk8 is very sturdy and robust, yet the price is very reasonable".

### SIMPLE, DOUBLE DESKS

Krishna came across Akhter at the BETT Show at Olympia and it was there that he first saw the Desk8 range. "Akhter's range included trapezoid shaped desks with different groupings and flexible layout possibilities" said Krishna, "whilst these were attractive, the most practical desks for us were the long rectangular ones that could seat two students"

Krishna found that Akhter's long rectangular desk took up less space than two of his existing individual desks. He could see how they could be laid these out to maximise space and relieve his cabling concerns.

### NEW ENVIRONMENT CREATED

"There are no hidden corners with the new layout", commented Krishna, "Teachers have good vision of children at all times. It's easier for everyone to move around too. The whole feel of the room has changed; the spaciousness and the ease of movement is a significant contribution to the learning environment."

### PRODUCT, SERVICE, VALUE FOR MONEY!

The School wanted to have the classrooms refitted during the summer break, but was awaiting confirmation of their science and maths specialty status before the funds were available to carry out the work. "We got the news in June and Akhter swung into action" said Krishna "fitting the rooms out straight away. For anyone looking for desks, Akhter hits all the right buttons - product, service and value for money!



Desk 8, Akhter Computers Ltd, Akhter House,  
Perry Road, Harlow, Essex CM18 7PN  
T: 01279 821200 F: 01279 821300  
[www.Akhter.co.uk](http://www.Akhter.co.uk)