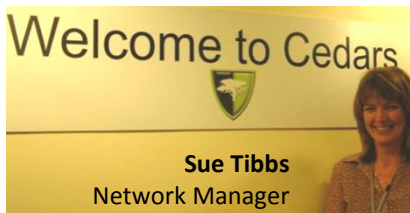


“Teachers all enjoy teaching in the suite. It’s spacious and more airy”



Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire.
cedarsupper.beds.sch.uk

Cedars Upper School is a large, vibrant and exciting school with a mission to continue to develop as one of the highest achieving, open, forward looking, creative, supportive, and exciting comprehensive schools in the country! Among its core values is the belief that school, parents, governors and the community must work together for the maximum benefit of their young people. Cedars is a Specialist College for Mathematics and Computing and a Microsoft Sponsored School. It offers a Specialist School education programme, to meet needs and aspirations of many adults, young people and students.



A LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP

Akhter installed the original network at Cedars Upper School long before current network manager Sue

Tibbs came across Akhter’s Desk8 stand at the Education Show.

Sue invited Akhter to tender for a computer suite that was in the planning stages. As a Microsoft sponsored school, Cedars already had one sponsored suite that had been refurbished and fitted with desks by a local company.

TOTAL SOLUTION REQUIRED

The suite needed a full refit with desks and wiring and the installation of a full network of PCs, Sue wanted a supplier that would take on the entire project. Work on the previous suite had required a lot of her time to co-ordinate multiple agencies.

Of the four companies invited to quote, Akhter offered the keenest price, even with one bidder unable to do wiring and another only quoting for desks! “I was pleased that Akhter won the contract. We have always had a good working relationship with the staff and are very pleased with Akhter’s service levels.

THE TEACHERS’ CHOICE

Originally the room had been laid out in conventional theatre style featuring a plinth and whiteboard at the front of the class.

Before running with the refurbishment, Akhter consulted with teachers to discuss desk layouts. The cluster route was an option, with Desk8’s trapezoid models lending itself to a variety of cluster shapes, but the consensus was to run with the open, airy feel of large gangways between a few lines of desks. Teachers felt they would be better placed to view student’s screens and move around more freely.

NOT JUST DESKS!

Akhter performed some building work, knocking through into a disused store room to make more space available and installed a new comms cabinet and switch as well as a fibre link between the cabinet and the original computer suite. Akhter managed the data wiring for the room and took care of the electrical wiring too, as well as the installation of an interactive whiteboard projector with amplifier and speakers.

BETTER LAYOUT – BETTER DESKS!

“We had noticed that the desks in the first suite are not as hard wearing as the Desk8 models. They are also an awkward size by comparison and the PCs are more difficult to access, not secure and certainly less tamper proof.”

With the layout we are able to achieve with the Akhter desks, plus the benefit of removing a store area at the end of the room, we now have a comfortable class size of 30 students, Rather than the more cramped class size of only 20 before.

THE TEACHERS ARE HAPPY ...

Sue commented “Staff all enjoy teaching in the Akhter room, it is much more spacious and the technology is all permanently set up so the transition between classes is seamless.”

... AND THE STUDENTS’ ARE TOO!

Students, for their part, enjoy the contemporary feel of their new environment, enhanced by new brighter lighting and air conditioning. Akhter supplied the chairs for the room too – all branded with the Cedars logo – the students love them!

ON TIME

The refurbishment started in August, during the summer break and was completed for the autumn restart. In managing the project, Akhter broke the installation down into phases, each one completed on time or a little early.

AKHTER – A COMPLETE SOLUTION

Sue was pleased with the progress of the work and relieved that she was able to minimise her own day to day involvement. “I really appreciated liaising with just one person at Akhter, rather than different people at various companies. I didn’t have to worry about how things would happen or organise who would do what and when. I discussed my requirements with Brad at Akhter; he handled the whole thing and was always available to help. Having everything done out of term time was wonderful; we didn’t lose any teaching time at all.

