



Making the best technology affordable for every student

Case study – BT ComputAbility

A modern, high-tech learning environment is key to The Leigh Academy's success. As one of the highest-achieving state comprehensive schools in England it had big plans for the future. It wanted to give all of its students their own iPads. But making it simple and cost-effective was going to be a mammoth task.

The challenge

The academy knew that arranging a device for every student could get complicated.

To make it work, it'd have to get parents on board with the idea, as well as making monthly payments to cover the cost of their child's iPad. Then there was all the paperwork. Organising the purchase of a variety of models. Collecting donations. Administering insurance claims on lost and damaged devices. It was going to be tricky and time-consuming.

The solution

The Leigh Academy is one of 16 schools that make up the Leigh Academies Trust. When they spoke to us about their plans, we knew the ComputAbility programme was the way forward.

Designed in partnership with Freedom Technology (an IT finance specialist), ComputAbility helps schools introduce new tech to students. It means teachers can include tablets, laptops and mobile devices into their lessons. Pupils can even take them home with them. Better still, it doesn't have to cost schools a thing.

Each student gets their own iPad and protective case. Just in case. Meanwhile, their parents pick up the bill in small monthly payments. And once the final payment's made, the iPad is theirs to keep.

We look after the day-to-day admin, so schools don't have to worry. We sort the financing, pick up the phone when parents have questions, and keep everything ticking along smoothly.

We even include an extended warranty and insurance. That way, if a parent can't keep up with the contributions or an iPad is broken, lost or stolen, it's not a problem. And there's still no cost to the school.

"BT said they could manage everything, relieving us of most of the administrative burden, placing less strain on our resources," says Sarah Tucker, Leigh Academies Trust's IT services project coordinator.

To get the ball rolling, Freedom Technology held a series of parents evenings at The Leigh Academy. They covered off all the details and showed off the ComputAbility web portal. It's the place where parents log on, choose a tablet and set up their monthly payments. It's safe, simple and customised for the academy.

"BT manage the collection of payments from parents, follow up on late payments and deal with breakages and insurance claims. Basically, they handle everything, and that was the big selling point for us."

Sarah Tucker
IT Services Project Coordinator,
Leigh Academies Trust



The result

Thanks to ComputAbility, every student at The Leigh Academy has an iPad. And there's no administration, or overhead, to worry about.

With our bulk purchasing discount on their side, The Leigh Academy could afford to buy 140 extra tablets for students who couldn't take part in the scheme. That way no-one gets left behind when it comes to using tablets in lessons.

And it doesn't stop there. We've helped the school fund a training programme that teaches staff new ways to use the technology in lessons. So now there's more innovation, more excitement, and better learning. And our tax-deductible monthly payment plan means staff can buy their own iPads at our discounted rate.

Our ComputAbility scheme has supported The Leigh Academy's quest to use cutting-edge technology wherever it can. Students are communicating better, collaborating more, and getting excited about new ways to learn.



“The ComputAbility scheme has been a big success for us and we’ll be looking to roll it out to other schools within Leigh Academies Trust.”

Sarah Tucker
IT Services Project Coordinator,
Leigh Academies Trust

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