Case Study:

Queen Anne's School

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Gareth Bouwer, Network Manager,
Queen Anne's School

Queen Anne's School in Caversham, Berkshire, is an independent boarding and day school for girls, with over 450 pupils aged between 11 years and 18 years.

Snapshot

- Education
- 500 + users
- Security architecture
- Consolidation and integration of legacy systems
- Simplify user access across multiple devices
- Create a single network management environment
- Provide closer control and stronger security
- FortiGate network security and management
- VLAN guest access
- Multi-level content filtering
- Simpler, centralised management
- A quick and easy user experience
- Improved security from end-to-end
- Rapid Disaster Recovery with minimal disruption
- Make life easier for students and staff

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What did Queen Anne's School want to achieve?

Education is a digital business these days. Schools need to keep pace with the rapid shift in the technology landscape, if they are to provide the kind of access to information and resources that today's digital-savvy students expect.

Like many organisations, Queen Anne's School had reached the point where steady evolution in different departments had led them to adopt a mix of technologies and associated licenses to manage, with some performance gaps between them.

The beginning of term was the most challenging time, particularly with the boom in smartphones and tablets. "The security was based on MAC address registration and providing proxy settings," says Gareth, "which meant a lot of administration when students turned up with their latest gadgets. For boarding pupils, their mobile devices might be their lifeline to home."

How did we help them to succeed?

We recommended a FortiGate solution that allowed everything to be consolidated into a single management environment. The wireless network, security and Active Directory are all integrated into a holistic service delivery and management system.

Our solution also includes a guest network, running as a virtual LAN within the FortiGate deployment. This allows parents and other visitors to the school to obtain internet access, without compromising the integrity of the school's infrastructure.

Content filtering is also managed through the same platform, with different levels of access provided to different age groups.

"Girls who are already registered now just have to visit a landing page and enter a password, instead of having to register different devices," says Gareth.

Were Queen Anne's School happy with the outcome?

"The FortiGate solution has given us much more flexibility and saved us a huge amount of time," says Gareth. "The network management is simpler and all the reporting comes to one place.

"We've also made life much easier for the girls, especially new students, who can be registered on the network very quickly. In that respect, the network is making an important contribution to life at the school; the wellbeing and happiness of students is our first priority."

From the IT team's point of view, the number of manual tasks required has been dramatically reduced and life is generally simpler, with so much complexity taken out of the network.

A final word about Cloud Business

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