

Case Study

St. Michael's Collegiate School

RXP delivered St Michael's Collegiate School with a digital learning platform that provides centralised access to online educational resources for students, staff and parents.



Client

St. Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart

Challenge

Prior to our engagement the existing Intranet and document management systems were aging and no longer capable of delivering the school's requirements. Another key challenge was that the staff responsible for the procurement and implementation of those systems had left the organisation, taking with them their knowledge of the system. Staff were supporting a customised off-the-shelf product developed in an unfamiliar technology, hindering internal capability to maintain and support the system. This subsequently created a significant dependency on a mainland provider, creating increased support costs and reduced agility to respond to Collegiate's evolving business and IT requirements.

The existing system was difficult to use and hard to navigate, resulting in a poor adoption rate from staff. The lack of training material also increased the depth of complexity for new users, already busy performing their everyday roles.

The final challenge presented by the Intranet and document management systems was the limitations of dated technology and their inability to deliver an online learning gateway.

are automatically directed to a custom portal, displaying dynamic content relevant to the individual. Each portal acts as a gateway to further school related SharePoint sites, called communities, which provide additional information and resources required to perform custom workflows such as accessing forms, scheduling excursions and submitting assignments.

We integrated SharePoint 2010 with Collegiate's Student Information Management system (Synergetic) to automate a range of tasks. One such task is the automatic creation of school related communities, including:

- House sites
- Class sites
- School sites (Junior School, Middle School and Senior School)
- Sport team sites
- Extracurricular activity sites (Tournament of the minds etc.)
- MySites

SharePoint 2010's MySite functionality is used to provide users with social media functionality, enabling them to engage in interactive dialogue. Standard out-of-the-box functionality delivers users with a personal blog, the ability to publish status updates, list their likes and interests and other group memberships within the school, and link to school friends. A live feed publishes content to individual users, as seen with common social media platforms.

Outcome

Technology Fit

The decision to use SharePoint 2010 enabled Collegiate's IT department to build upon their existing technology stack and support their long-term vision.

Improved Teaching and Learning Capability

This system revolutionised the way in which teachers can create, deliver and assess student learning outcomes.

Our Work

We delivered a digital learning platform using SharePoint 2010, known as RedConnect. The system provides centralised access to online educational resources and important information for students, staff and parents.

When members from each of the three user groups log into the system using their existing domain account they

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Teachers will be able to provision digital learning resources to students, assign homework, provide additional learning resources to support their coursework and perform analytics to review individual or aggregated student progress across a range of criteria.

In-line browser editing promotes collaboration amongst students by enabling them to access and make changes to Microsoft Word, Excel, OneNote and PowerPoint files from within the SharePoint portal. The system can be accessed externally from any computer with an internet connection.

SharePoint's out-of-the-box document management functionality enables multiple students working on assignments to identify the latest document version and to view changes that have been made.

We integrated SharePoint 2010 with Microsoft Lync 2010 to support online messaging functionality. This will benefit students and teachers by enabling instant messages, voice calls, video calls, meetings, and shared desktop and whiteboard sessions.

Improved Visibility for Parents

The new system enables parents to remotely log in and view important information in relation to their children. Parents that have multiple children can switch between the details of each child and an aggregated view of all children. The final product automatically populates each parent's portal with information such as:

- Student absenteeism and grades
- Student assignments, homework and extracurricular workload
- School fees payment progress

Reduced IT Workload

A key benefit from the IT Department's perspective is the simplicity and efficiency offered by the system.

The integration between SharePoint and Synergetic eliminates the need to build sites manually. In addition the need to manage and maintain student and staff access

is removed. Once a site has been created teachers are able to upload their teaching resources and students can access them instantly. The creation of each site is supported by custom workflows relevant to each class, determined by pre defined business processes.

Positive Online Brand Alignment and Intuitive User Experience

We were successful in driving Collegiate's brand forward into the digital domain with a vibrant and energetic portal design. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the concept has proven to resonate with all user groups. The unique look and feel achieved by the design compliments the portals navigation and information architecture to provide all user groups with an intuitive and highly navigable experience. All of which are critical factors to assisting the portal to become an integral part of the teachers and students school life. "I felt it was vitally important that the design of RedConnect was engaging and captivating to our students. It is their uptake of this environment that is critically important to the ultimate success of the project." Tom Cook, Director of ICT, St Michael's Collegiate.

Contact

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