



Westcliff School for Girls

gets the message

Malcolm Moore is the Network Administrator at the Westcliff School for Girls. He has been working in IT for over 20 years and has gained extensive experience in Linux, Mac and PC systems management. Founded in 1920, the Westcliff School for Girls is located near Southend in Essex. There are over 1,000 pupils at this well-respected grammar school, aged from 11 to 18 years old. The girls have access to over 350 PCs and four Macs and there is a strong focus on technology.

Until recently the Westcliff School had been using and struggling with a modified proprietary email system. In fact Malcolm admits, "It fell over all the time and I got fed up of having to restart the system every day." The other main problem with the existing system was attachments kept mysteriously disappearing. Its unreliability was becoming increasingly frustrating.

Kerio MailServer

- ▶ Integrated Anti-Spam
 - ▶ Dual Anti-Virus Option
 - ▶ Groupware Support
 - ▶ Easy Administration
 - ▶ Runs on Windows, Linux & Mac OS X
 - ▶ Cost Effective
 - ▶ Robust and Reliable
 - ▶ Easy Migration from Microsoft Exchange
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Finding a replacement email system was a big responsibility for Malcolm Moore, IT Manager, as over 1,000 students rely on email at the school.

Tough Assignment

The Westcliff pupils need email for sending homework to and from the school, for research and to make external contacts for project work. There is also a large amount of internal traffic. With pressure to improve the efficiency of email communication coming from both staff and students, Malcolm had to quickly find an alternative email system that was reliable and reasonably priced.

With only two people in the IT department it was also very important to source a replacement that would be simple to install, easy to manage and scalable. It was a tough assignment. For over two months, he researched and tested many different mail servers in order to find the best possible solution for the school.

New Mail Server, No Stress

After reading an article about Kerio MailServer on linuxtoday.com, Malcolm decided to include this product in the review process and he was impressed with the results. He comments, "During our evaluation support from Kerio Technologies UK was excellent."

"It is incredibly easy to build and maintain. So far Kerio MailServer seems pretty much unbreakable."

In recent years the UK government has placed strong emphasis on the importance of technology within the education sector. All schools have been tasked with improving their IT facilities, but IT budgets remain tight.

Malcolm admits, "We chose Kerio MailServer as it is so cost-effective. It is available in Windows, Mac and Linux versions, which gives us the option to run with Linux as there are no additional server costs."

The fact that the initial installation and ongoing management of the Kerio MailServer solution have both proved to be stress free is also a big benefit. He confirms, "It is incredibly easy to build and maintain. The WebMail interface makes rolling it out across the school extremely simple and platform independent. Adding users is easy as we can add users in bulk."

"Pretty Much Unbreakable"

A key problem with the old email system was its instability, but this issue has been solved with Kerio MailServer. "It will run on very low spec hardware. We originally installed this software with 1,200 users on an old 500MHz server and only later upgraded to a 1.2GHz machine."

Malcolm sums up his experience with the new mail server, "So far Kerio MailServer seems pretty much unbreakable."

