XP SCHOOL TRUST
CASE STUDY

Schools are facing a significant tightening of budget whilst the demand for student places continues to rise.
Unless other areas make savings, schools may have to cut classroom resources, or staff, to balance the books.

Here at XMA, for over 20 years we have been supporting IT innovation in both learning and teaching. We are now helping educational establishments, such as the outstanding (Ofsted 2017 – outstanding in all categories) XP East School in Doncaster, save money in management and administration through radical approaches to cost saving in the back office.

XP School realised that money spent on on-premise servers and storage, could be re-invested directly into teaching and learning. XMA were awarded the contract to deliver this cost-saving solution.

The XP School and new sister School XP East are saving tens of thousands of pounds in hardware and support by exclusively using the cloud to provide services across the schools.

XMA has infrastructure models for all shapes and sizes of educational institutions; this ranges from full on-premises solutions, hybrid on-site and cloud solutions and creating roadmaps for our clients to transition from current state to the optimal future state.

Until very recently, being 'cloud only' involved compromising some elements of functionality for cost saving. However, for the new XP East School, the Trust has the opportunity to fill gaps. This includes cashless catering with new innovative cloud solutions and enhanced managed print facilities, proving that all of the normal school IT functionality can be achieved without expensive local server infrastructure and IT Technician resource to manage it.

Ofsted
Outstanding Provider

XP.
TRUST

Uniquely, the two schools will not have on-site technicians, saving circa £50,000 per year at a time when this is needed on the frontline of teaching. A further £10,000 per year is being saved between the two schools on hardware, whose functionality is now provided in the cloud, using almost exclusively free services from Google. Both free and nearly free cloud services used are resilient, scalable, easy to use, always on and fully mobile for use anytime anywhere.

Savings of £60,000 per year, combined with simpler, easier to use and more reliable services, is just the kind of innovation that the Trust needed to square the circle of budget tightening. The funds are helping them innovate in the classroom, for example, the school use their concept of student expeditions to make student experiences exciting and relevant, whilst maintaining rigour through granular tracking of attainment and progress.

"As a new school, we were able to acutely focus on what we need and what we don't need, what works and what doesn't work. Given the fast development of technology and the social context of how we use it, we were able to make realistic and relevant decisions on how we want to work.

While we had decided which way we wanted to go, XMA are helping us negotiate the various products and options, which have often resulted in us using free, or low cost solutions, alongside high quality hardware.

Because the nature of cloud-based systems are simple, maintainable, scalable and collaborative, the decision not to employ specialist technicians was a natural one.

Thanks to XMA, we're happy we have a best value solution, and we're even happier with the way we can do things quickly and effectively together."

XP School Trust CEO Gwyn ap Harri

Ofsted inspected the School in July 2017 and wrote:

"This is an outstanding school…
Pupils love their school. They attend well and enjoy learning. They appreciate the
hard work and thought that goes into the work and experiences staff plan for them."