



# XMA and Keele University empower students through iPad delivery and training

In September 2020, Keele University opened a veterinary school in partnership with Harper Adams University. Keele already had a strong reputation in UK higher education, and aimed for the new veterinary school to be the best in the country.

Keele designed the new veterinary course to be highly vocational, with lots of hands-on elements. This meant students and staff needed a device that could support a mixture of classroom and field-based learning. After carrying out their own market assessment, Keele chose the iPad as it offered everything they needed – a stable platform, ease of use and collaboration tools.



## The XMA difference

XMA is as an Apple Authorised Education Specialist. Our in-house Apple Professional Learning Specialists (APLS) are lifelong educators, uniquely qualified to demonstrate and advise on how to use technology to enhance learning and teaching.

## Building confidence with iPad

Although the iPad was the right device for the university's requirements, staff and students were more familiar with Windows devices. XMA suggested their Apple Professional Learning Specialists (APLS) run training sessions to support device adoption and build confidence.

The APLS team put together a bespoke curriculum for Keele that aimed to show students and staff how to get the most out of iPads as education tools. Training

sessions lasted 15 minutes and took place during lunch breaks to encourage attendance. Early sessions focused on the basics, such as how to turn devices on. Then, more elaborate features such as accessibility were discussed. This was a core focus for the university, as they wanted students from a range of backgrounds to be able to participate in the course, and for devices to meet their individual needs.



*"Thank you very much for your quick bites. Students and staff seem to have learnt a lot and are really appreciative, not least myself! The sessions have been a real highlight of this week. We'll look forward to some more insights during term!"*

Vicki, Keele University Veterinary School

## Meeting deadlines in a pandemic

The project had a hard deadline of September 2020, as the iPads needed to be ready for the first intake at the new veterinary school. This deadline fell in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made delivery challenging, as demand throughout the pandemic had disrupted iPad supply times.

XMA worked with the Keele IT team to forecast lead times around key points within the academic year, factoring in elongated iPad delivery times. The APLS team went straight into training sessions, working around the IT team's ability to fulfil purchase requirements. Training sessions were front loaded at the beginning of the academic year to ensure staff and students knew how to use iPads early on in their courses.

Keele IT team used Jamf to deploy more than 120 iPads to staff and students. With restrictions on site visits, this service was a game-changer by offering a zero-touch deployment that saved time and effort, while ensuring an unbeatable level of cleanliness. This method of deployment enabled learning with technology to continue as planned, without compromise.

## Securing devices and protecting wellbeing

As well as enabling simple deployment, Jamf allows the university to manage iPads remotely. Jamf enables the Keele IT team to push new applications onto the iPads. It also allows them to monitor student behaviour on their iPads, which can be used to help safeguard students and protect their wellbeing.

## Improving educational outcomes

Since introducing iPads, the veterinary school has already seen improvements in the learning experience:

- Greater student engagement
- Students and staff have access to information and resources, wherever learning takes place
- Improved staff and student collaboration

The main project aim for Keele University was for the iPads to improve educational outcomes. The APLS training was vital in facilitating that goal, as it gave students and staff the knowledge to unlock the full potential in their iPads. In future, Keele University intends to participate in more APLS sessions to further develop skills.

Want to find out more about how Apple technology can support universities? Get in touch.

[education@xma.co.uk](mailto:education@xma.co.uk)