

The City of Liverpool College



THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL COLLEGE

The City of Liverpool College is a top ten national further education (FE) provider in the United Kingdom, delivering high quality education to more than a third of all 16 – 18 year olds in Liverpool. As well as providing training and learning, the college offers the SharEd service; a shared service model designed to enable FE organisations to reduce costs and achieve transformation through outsourcing services, such as HR, facilities, finance, IT and management information systems.

Business Challenges

The college is made up of six campuses in and around Liverpool, with its data centre forming the backbone of its infrastructure, serving 22,000 students and a teaching staff to match. To support its technology growth and new ventures, along with other institutions as part of the SharEd programme, the college needed to re-evaluate its current data centre facility to meet future requirements and digital growth.

“As part of the SharEd service, we offer other organisations the tools needed to transform their operations at a faster pace, so they can focus on teaching and learning. With ongoing budget cuts and increasing expectations for learning, particularly in relation to digital technologies, we anticipate a growing number of colleges will be interested in a service of this type. Therefore we had to ensure our data centre facility provided us with a highly resilient infrastructure that could scale quickly with demand. This would also enable us to deliver the exceptional level of network availability demanded by our partners.”

Alasdair Redmond, group CIO of City of Liverpool College and SharEd

The college was also looking to reduce overall operational costs. Having previously spent £60,000 per year in another data centre, the college understood the need to reduce these costs significantly as budgets get tighter and expectations on services grow.

“Cost is a concern for any college in managing their data requirements. As our budgets need to go further, we are always looking for the best possible ways to reduce costs, without reducing quality.”

The VIRTUS Solution

In partnership with Jisc, VIRTUS provides a Shared Data Centre under a framework agreement that simplifies the procurement process. Jisc’s vision is to create a shared environment, where members can share data sets under one roof, collaborate and ensure the UK is at the forefront of academic and global medical research.

“Once we made the decision to outsource, we looked at the best possible options available and the Jisc framework with VIRTUS stood out. The framework agreement ensures the procurement process is as simple as possible, whilst the quality of the data centre facility meets the key requirements of resilience, scalability and cost efficiencies we were looking for.”

The college has now moved its own equipment into the highly secure environment located 200 miles away in Slough. As the data centre is connected to the core of Jisc’s dedicated network, Janet, Liverpool College benefit from high bandwidth, high speed access, and see no latency issues at all.

“The data centre may as well be next door. We are also assured that this connection – and our data – is secure.”

Benefits

“By choosing an off-site data centre, operational costs have been reduced and this has provided additional flexibility in valuable campus space on premise.”

VIRTUS LONDON4 has provided significant cost savings for the college. The goal of achieving economies of scale without altering education delivery or quality has been achieved. Outsourcing HR, finance, IT and management information systems, has resulted in an 80 per cent saving on the data centre cost itself. The new data centre is central to SharEd’s outsourcing model and is projecting overall client savings in the range of 25-40 per cent.

As the Jisc Shared Data Centre grows, attracting more education organisations, the overall cost savings for tenants will increase.

VIRTUS Data Centres

Kent House , 14-17 Market Place,
London, W1W 8AJ

✆ +44 (0)20 7499 1300 | info@virtusdcs.com
info@virtusdcs.com | [@VirtusDCs](https://www.virtusdatacentres.com)
www.virtusdatacentres.com

VIRTUS
Data Centres