

Marriotts and Lonsdale Schools, Stevenage



Sector: Education

Equipment installed :

Active equipment
Bespoke night monitoring system
Cat 6 data network
Fibre backbone
Fire alarm
Fire beams
Fire paging
Intruder alarm
IP Access Control
IP CCTV
IP Telephony



One of Hertfordshire's first BSF projects has seen the successful creation of an ultra-modern, high technology and comprehensively equipped 'inclusive educational community' for people of all ages and abilities from both Stevenage and the wider region.

The co-location of an almost completely rebuilt 1600 place mainstream education, Sports specialist Marriotts School, with a highly supportive 84 place special needs Lonsdale School; has created a rare mix of the very latest technologies and facilities to create a class leading school campus, whilst also providing a wealth of additional facilities which provide significant added value through extra-curricular and community use.

Right from the design stage the security, fire, communications and life safety specialists at Thompson AVC were excited about being involved on this £45m scheme. It is rare for so broad a range of the engineers' skills, experience and capabilities to be put to use on one project, but the broad mix of facilities and working environments to be protected and connected on one site, created an unusually interesting challenge.

One of the more unusual design requirements was to create a safe and secure environment, whilst maintaining the homely feel within Lonsdale School's on site

22 room residential facility. This integral part of the School provides overnight residential accommodation with 24hr nurse cover for around two thirds of the school's pupils on two nights a week.

With Lonsdale School catering for pupils with both Physical and Neurological Impairments, the importance of effectively and consistently summoning help at the earliest opportunity was of critical importance.

One of Thompson AVC's solutions saw the creation of a bespoke night monitoring capability. This utilises high quality microphones to relay sound from each of the 22 bedrooms to monitoring points around the site; where specially trained staff listen to each child's breathing patterns, and use two way speech facilities to reassure them, when appropriate, that help is on the way.

To provide further protection, the eighty assistance alarms around the site are linked to addressable toilet alarms to directly page the duty staff with the location of need if help is required.

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In addition the joint school campus has also benefitted from a wealth of other technologies and system capabilities, including:

- A 400 point 'double knock' fire alarm system which pages duty staff to allow initial investigation and confirmation of an event before the system goes into full alarm. Whilst also maintaining full alarm response in the event of a manual call point activation.
- IP access control and fire alarm system integration providing free circulation along escape routes in the event of the alarm being triggered
- A 54 camera IP CCTV system, including all cabling and core and access switches
- IP CCTV and intruder alarm integration, enabling the CCTV cameras to automatically track movement on alarm activation, with the system reverting to its normal position / routine upon resetting of the alarm panel.

As with every project undertaken by Thompson AVC, the aim is to add value for every client on every job and this one was no exception.

Thompson AVC's communication specialists introduced the council and schools teams to the benefits of Voice over IP (VoIP) telephony, and took them along to the system manufacturers showroom and technical support centre to provide a detailed understanding of the system capabilities, flexibility and potential cost savings.

The resulting IP telephony system is a first for Hertfordshire schools and is also being installed by Thompson AVC engineers on a concurrent Hertfordshire BSF scheme at The Nobel School.

Additional ongoing cost reduction benefits have been created through integration of the class change notification signal with the fire alarm sounders. This provides a different tone via the alarm sounders, removing the need for a separate class change system. Whilst the installation of fire beams within the atriums also minimises the health and safety risks during future maintenance visits.

And finally, to ensure that all of the new, and future technologies can maintain communication across the site, as well as with the outside and wider world; Thompson AVC have installed around 3,000 data points across the campus, which are then connected via the high speed Cat6 cable infrastructure to the server racks and UPS', which are, in turn, connected via a fibre backbone. This is in addition to the installation and configuration of the active network equipment which was also configured by Thompson AVC's own HP trained team.

So if you are looking for a specialist security, fire, communications and life safety specialist who can create bespoke integrated & cost effective systems, whilst adding value on every project, then why not give the Thompson AVC team a call.



Bespoke design, installation and maintenance of integrated security, fire, communication and life safety systems for organisations across the UK.