

# ST LEONARDS-MAYFIELD SCHOOL PIONEER LEADING ICT INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE



St Leonards-Mayfield School is an independent Catholic boarding and day school for 400 girls set at the heart of the picturesque Sussex village of Mayfield, twelve miles south of Royal Tunbridge Wells and fifty miles from the centre of London.

It is a School at which each girl is encouraged to combine rigorous academic study with a diverse range of activities beyond the classroom.

As a result, 'Mayfield girls' are renowned for achieving some of the highest public examination grades in the UK whilst at the same time developing a love for the performing and creative arts

and sports and a lifelong commitment to community service.

## Project Summary

### Industry:

Education - Independent School

### Challenges:

- Ageing, end of life server estate
- Increasing heat, power and cooling costs
- Minimal failover and DR for key school IT systems
- Ensure high availability of critical line of business applications
- Growing IT support and maintenance overhead

### Solution:

- SP-Consult - Technical consultancy, network design and IT strategy workshop
- VMware vSphere server virtualisation
- HP P2000 SAN shared storage
- Veeam Backup and Replication
- SP-Manage - Network monitoring, IT support and help-desk service

### Benefits:

- Ease of management and server provisioning with new virtual infrastructure
- Simplified, robust backup strategy
- Improved DR capability with data replicated to secondary location
- Centralised and improved network administration
- Reduced power costs
- Scalable, resilient IT platform to support future growth

System Professional working as a VMware Enterprise Partner



System Professional working as a Veeam Gold Partner



For more information please get in touch:

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## Project Overview

With a proven track record of delivering quality IT consulting services to the Independent School sector, System Professional was invited to partake in an ICT Strategy engagement by Caroline Barry, IT Director at Mayfield.

Caroline explained how the School's IT infrastructure was approaching end of life and had grown organically over recent years. The core IT systems were operational and IT services were delivered to best practice, but improvements were needed to ensure the school maintained their leading edge ICT learning environment.

**“We are delighted with the quality of work delivered by System Professional. The new virtual environment fully supports Mayfield's future growth plans.”**

Caroline Barry, IT Director

In summary, Caroline wanted to address challenges with their existing IT infrastructure and instigate a rigorous assessment of Mayfield's longer-term ICT road-map. It was paramount to ensure Mayfield continued to provide a first class ICT service to both staff and pupils. The student experience was key and any upgrade needed to avoid classroom lesson disruption and enable best-of-breed multimedia to support the learning process.

### IT Consultancy Exercise

Following the initial meeting, a strategic IT consulting exercise was undertaken by System Professional and involved a comprehensive investigation

and analysis of the School's core IT infrastructure and network systems.

The key priority recommendations were as follows;

1. Consolidate the legacy server infrastructure with newer, supported hardware and move to a VMware virtual environment.
2. Simplify the backup strategy and introduce Veeam to enable data replication.
3. Implement a shared storage platform to provide high availability, greater performance and increased capacity.

## Solution

Following the design and consultation exercise, a new IT infrastructure consisting of VMware vSphere server virtualisation, an HP SAN and Veeam backup technologies was deployed. This ensures that Mayfield benefit from an energy efficient, virtualised server environment, providing high availability and redundancy for the School's key systems. It also ensures VDI readiness of the Mayfield IT systems, for future desktop virtualisation requirements.

Caroline explained how “We are delighted with the quality of work delivered by System Professional. The new virtual environment fully

supports Mayfield's future growth plans and provides a stable, resilient IT infrastructure for all staff and pupils.”

System Professional provided assisted installation training with Mayfield staff during the project implementation phase. On-going IT support services were also arranged to help manage and maintain the new VMware infrastructure and storage platform. Deidre Rowe, Deputy Head at Mayfield, confirmed that “System Professional have worked closely with the School to ensure we maintain a leading ICT infrastructure that underpins our commitment to excellence for the student learning environment. The quality of student experience at Mayfield is paramount and we are confident that we have a stable, secure and robust platform for future pupils to utilise.”

Dan Elson, System Professional's Managing Director stated “We are delighted that Mayfield School chose System Professional as their preferred IT partner to deliver the new server virtualisation and storage platform. We look forward to a long-term partnership with Mayfield School and supporting their pupils and staff to a very high level in future”.

In summary, Lt Col Tony Bayliss, Bursar at Mayfield concludes how “The School's investment in a leading IT infrastructure has been closely aligned to an overall reduced total cost of ownership model. We wanted to ensure the School achieved best value over a sustained period and the future savings in hardware, maintenance and support costs will realise this aim.”



### About System Professional

Formed in 2003, System Professional Ltd is a fully accredited VMware Enterprise Partner and HP Preferred Partner with a dedicated focus on advanced virtualisation technologies and IT support services.

With a Head Office in East Sussex, System Professional supports a customer base across the UK.

For more information go to [www.sys-pro.co.uk](http://www.sys-pro.co.uk)



### About St Leonards-Mayfield School

St Leonards-Mayfield is a leading independent Catholic boarding and day school for girls aged 11 to 18.

At Mayfield, girls learn how to combine rigorous academic study with a diverse range of activities beyond the classroom.

For more information go to [www.mayfieldgirls.org](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org)



### About VMware

VMware (NYSE: VMW) is the global leader in virtualisation solutions from the desktop to the datacenter - bringing cloud computing to businesses of all sizes.

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, VMware is majority-owned by EMC Corporation (NYSE: EMC).

For more information go to [www.vmware.com](http://www.vmware.com)