

# Case Study

# Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth 1 College



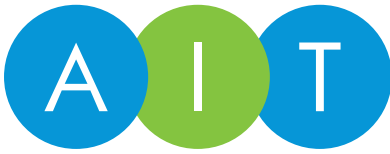
## Turning aspiration into excellence

### About

As a Sixth Form College specialising in Advanced Level education for students aged 16-18, QE offers students the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential and develop as an increasingly independent individual whilst becoming part of a vibrant, supportive learning community. More than that the college encourages students to have the opportunity to shape the future as well as contribute to the life and character of the college. The college has outstanding facilities; teaching at QE takes place in specialist accommodation, most of it recently purpose-built or comprehensively refurbished.

### The Problem

QE's current access control solution was supplied by a company that was no longer trading and support for the system was no longer available. This was considered to have become a risk. The college's existing system was in fact two separate solutions bolted together that had its origins in the college's attendance system with another system added to extend this capacity. The system used Magstripe cards and these were now considered to be older technology.



## The solution

Given the disparate nature of the current system any new access control solution needed to be easy to manage, fast, reliable and offer good value for money as well as good support levels. Any new system would also have to offer a card production system and be able to support the issue of temporary cards to students that lose or forget their cards. The contract was then put out to tender.

From the outset the team at QE felt comfortable with the AIT presentation and were impressed with the merits of being able to use a mixture of online and offline doors. The solution had to be able to look after a variety of door types including external entrances, classrooms, server rooms, lifts, turnstiles, parking barriers and disabled access gates. As AIT is a current supplier to the college for print management the college were reassured that AIT has the expertise to deliver the card production element of the tender as well as be able to offer the software skills needed to deliver the bespoke element needed for the temporary card requirements. The AIT solution was felt to embrace new technologies to deliver more doors for the budget available as well as provide a one card solution for the students whereby their door access card is used for their printing needs as well as other areas like catering.

## Ease of Implementation

The key to the successful implementation of this system was down to the project planning that was undertaken. Working closely together the team at QE and AIT scoped out the exact requirements and a proof of concept was installed on one door, however the benefit of this was that the management software was also installed which then saved time as the system was rolled out to more doors. The team at QE were already familiar with this side of the solution. The project planning meant that all the timescales were met and a good contingency plan was in place as well for go live day.

On go live day the college had a team in place at each door to help staff and students and the team from AIT were also on site to assist with any teething problems.

One of the main requirements of the QE system was the need for a temporary card to be able to be issued to any student who forgets their card and whilst there were some issues with this system initially, the team at AIT has persevered and all significant teething problems have now been ironed out. The general office at the college can now issue students with temporary cards and visitors with the appropriate visitor cards. The policy at the college is to issue temporary cards so the students are encouraged take personal responsibility for remembering their cards.

## The Benefits

Roger Laurenti from Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College says the benefits have been quick to see. With the use of new technologies the college has been able to extend the system to include more doors and whilst AIT didn't present the cheapest option they did offer the best value due to the ability to extend the solution to meet the other needs; a temporary card issuing system, card production solution and the integration with other systems such as print management. Working with one supplier for a number of services has also been an added benefit, saving time and the need to coordinate various companies. AIT's contribution to the project management team was invaluable and the proof of concept trial ahead of the main installation allowed various issues to be ironed out in good time.

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Roger Laurenti

