

The Pioneer School Invests in Interactive Plasma Technology for SEN Students

Involved : 15x 50"HD fitted with touch panels
End user : The Pioneer School
Placement : Classrooms
Install Date : January 2009
Partners : Integrex

The Pioneer School in Basildon, Essex has installed 15 VisiLift systems to provide access to interactive plasma screens to students with special education needs to enhance the classroom learning experience.

The Pioneer School is a new model special school at which a large proportion of students have physical disabilities and many are wheelchair-bound or similar. The school currently caters for 130 students between the ages of 3 to 19 and has a total of 70 teaching and classroom support staff.



The new touch-screens enhancing the learning of the students.

Teaching staff wanted to offer students a more interactive learning experience which could be adapted to fit particular activities. Staff were particularly keen to plan lessons around touch-screen technology, so from a practical perspective the system had to be adjustable on a vertical and horizontal axis and fully mobile to allow students with a wide range of physical impairments to make use of it.

Steve Horsted, Head Teacher, The Pioneer School, said: "Having the freedom to move the display screens around has enabled classrooms to be configured quickly and easily in the way that best suits the teacher's particular needs. The VisiLift systems can also be used to support one or two students at a time in a planned activity using the touch-screen technology."

Learning together

After considering a range of systems, the school decided to avoid fixed-wall solutions that perpetuated the traditional teaching approach and can create barriers between teachers and students. The Pioneer School, opted for Integrex's mobile proposition instead, and purchased 15 VisiLift systems which have been in constant use since they were installed at the start of 2009.

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Internal use only

Consent given for external use

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Teachers have witnessed a strongly positive reaction to the interactive touch-screens which have greatly enhanced student engagement and the bespoke interactive software has promoted measurable student development on an individual basis.



Students' having fun interacting with the touch-screens.

Integrex partnered with Panasonic to fit robust and durable plasma displays to the Visilift system. The screens are perfectly suited to the classroom environment, offering strikingly bright, crisp pictures which are visible from any angle and in any lighting. The adaptable and flexible system makes the ideal replacement for projectors, flipcharts and interactive whiteboards, particularly since the user does not cast a shadow in the way they would when using a traditional whiteboard.

Steve Barton, IT Sales Manager, Integrex said: "It was immediately clear Panasonic was the right display partner for us since its screens are tough enough to withstand the physical demands of the classroom environment. We needed a display that would be bright

enough to use in any ambient lighting and with Panasonic pro plasmas we didn't have to sacrifice specs for sturdiness."

The purchase was a cost-effective long term investment for the Pioneer School since the Panasonic plasma screens provide high-quality pictures with a typical lifetime of 100,000 hours of usage.

Vincent Slevin, UK & Ireland Country Manager at PVDE, said: "We were able to offer Integrex the durability and reliability they needed for their Visilift system. The Pioneer School use our screens every day during term time, and in a wide variety of contexts, this clearly illustrates why Panasonic's screens are so well suited to the education sector."

Benefits of Panasonic displays

- Displays are reliable with robust build
- Durable front panel perfect for touch-screen applications
- Significantly faster response rate ideal for fast moving images

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