College Wi-Fi and Filtering January 2018

These are the outcomes of a meeting between the IT/ILT Student Reps and Tim Atkins, the Senior Systems Engineer. This discussion was led by Rosie Burgess and drew upon your responses from the 2017 Jisc Student Digital Tracker and the Bexhill College 2017 IT/ILT Survey. Also in attendance was Malcolm Allen, the ILT (e-learning) co-ordinator.

The College Wi-Fi

The College has a high quality 1Gb connection that has sufficient bandwidth for a College of this size. It is shared bandwidth and College laptops always take priority over personal devices as use of the Wi-Fi for learning takes priority. Wi-Fi is accessible from access points located around the College. In many areas the access points enable connection across a wide area. However, the construction fabric of the building does provide restrictions in some physical locations.

Theatre Lower Ground floor

- There is restricted access on the lower ground floor of the Theatre due to the internal construction of steel and concrete.
- Consideration is being given to an additional access point in the Music Rehearsal Room.

Maths Huts

- The construction of the internals walls between the huts is of steel mesh.
- Hut 2 is currently set up for College laptops only for an optimal learning experience
- Consideration is being given to additional access points in Hut 1 and 3.
- Increased student access in Hut 1 may be possible and will be examined.

The Refectory

- We currently have 3 access points in the Refectory with a total of 14 radios combined, so which would equate to 14 access points in real terms as each radio operates separately.
- There is high loading on the access points, especially at break times, with 1500 personal student devices registered. At 10am and 1pm we have around 320 devices connecting at the same time
- The access points are optimised for newer devices so some older models may have issues.
- What students use their devices for also affects performance e.g. use of video streaming.
- College laptops for learning takes precedence over personal devices for social use.

College Wi-Fi and Filtering January 2018

Access to specific social applications
- Currently there is very little restriction on what applications students can access on their own device.
- Facebook is available before 8.45am, between 12:15pm and 1:45pm, and after 4.30pm. It is restricted at other times at the request of the teaching staff.
- Some applications connect to obscure ports on the access points that are normally blocked.
- It is not currently possible to send Snapchat Blue. This had not been previously reported by any students and came to light as the result of our recent IT/ILT Survey. It is not blocked intentionally.
- We will check enabling the sending of Snapchat Blue.

Filtering of web sites
- Smoothwall is our College web filtering facility. We have a legal requirement to have this in place as an educational establishment to safeguard students aged 16-19.
- Web sites are matched against a blacklist of key words and phrases.
- Legitimate sites can be blocked due an inappropriate advertisement or comment on the web page.
- If you think that a website should be un-blocked, as it would benefit your study and for other students, please refer the web address to your teacher. The teacher will assess its suitability. They can then ask IT to un-block and placed on a whitelist for general access.
- If you find an inappropriate website that has not be filtered, then please report that.

A reminder of how to report

- If you have any issues with **IT** equipment like monitors, mice, computers and laptops, network logins, printing, access to Wi-Fi, email, Foldr or the Student Portal then send an email to **it**support@bexhillcollege.ac.uk based in CG18.

- If you have any **ILT** issues with **Moodle, Kerboodle or ClickView, classroom speakers, projectors or interactive whiteboards** then send an email to **ilt**support@bexhillcollege.ac.uk based in the LRC