Moving from one cloud MIS to another: Why Hinchingbrooke Secondary School opted for Arbor

"We wanted a transparent, more modern system that wasn't just replicating everything we did on legacy systems but in the cloud."

Hinchingbrooke School is a large comprehensive secondary and sixth form, made up of 2000 students and based in Cambridgeshire. They moved from Bromcom to Arbor in 2022.

Before Arbor

Hinchingbrooke school wanted to make sure their new MIS helped to simplify their processes and save them time, as their previous cloud system was clunky and inefficient.

In David's own words, 'we wanted a transparent, more modern system that wasn't just replicating everything we did on legacy systems but in the cloud.'

The immediate impact

Within the first few months of using Arbor, the promises of time being saved and processes being joined up were already coming to fruition. Automated workflows have been the main gamechanger for Hinchingbrooke.

In their previous system, if a child needed to be taken out of a class for poor behaviour, a senior leader would have to take the student to reception, where an administrative staff member would send an email home manually and log the incident.

DAVID PENDLEBURY,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL

Secondary school

Students: 2000

Located: Cambridgeshire

Support: Arbor

In Arbor, this process can be done at the click of a button, with the incident logged, detention booked and an email sent home automatically. This means that time is saved across the board, for office staff, teachers and SLT, and the risk of error is significantly reduced.

Another big time-saver for David in particular is through reporting. With data collections, he can now easily notify staff members when datasets are missing, rather than having to chase individuals. The information sits live on his dashboard so he has visiblity over his school's data. Jobs that have previously taken him hours, now take minutes.

Given the size of Hinchingbrooke, this is even more critical, as it means more time for students, safeguarding and attention to learning. David describes this as being no longer restricted by their MIS, as the team are now able to use their MIS as a tool for school improvement.

As well as behaviour automated workflows, the school have also found the Clubs and Trips module particularly useful for a student set of their size, as well as tailored permissions.

Support and onboarding

Moving MIS is always a daunting process, but having a dedicated Project Manager to their school, Hinchingbrooke found the transition smooth and manageable. They took advantage of dummy sites, bespoke Assessment training and the Arbor Help Centre, so that when the time came to move, staff at all levels felt prepared and ready to make the most out of the system. The project was managed very well, and the team were consistently impressed at how quickly any of their concerns were resolved.

In the long run

The initial strategic aim of David and Hinchingbrooke School was to simplify their processes in order to save time. Whilst the school feel this has already started to be achieved after a short time using Arbor, the goal going forward is to delve deeper and make the most of the system. At the moment, the team feel they are only scratching the surface of Arbor's potential.

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> Having worked with both legacy and cloud systems, I can't think of an MIS that's going to be better than Arbor.
>
> DAVID PENDLEBURY
> "

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