

Overview

Name: Design & Technology Department

Company: Tadcaster Grammar School

Location: Tadcaster, England

Industry: Education

Product: CorelDRAW[®] CTL Education



"The Strawberry Patch": a board game designed by TGS students using CorelDRAW CTL Education

Learning by design

With over 1500 students aged 11 to 18, Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) in North Yorkshire is a hive of activity and raw talent – especially when it comes to Design & Technology, an increasingly popular subject area for students. However, for pupils to fulfil their potential in, for example, graphic design, they need the right tools. More specifically, they need software that is easy to use and enables them to produce their best work. Unfortunately, students at TGS didn't have that luxury – until the school made the decision to purchase CorelDRAW Graphics Suite CTL Education.

"The situation before we purchased CorelDRAW Graphics Suite was far from ideal," remembers James Burkhill, Design & Technology Technician at TGS. "We were using two or three different software packages. It took much longer to get work done. Teachers had to train the students on different pieces of software. And the students had to spend more time learning how to use them, instead of focusing on their project. In addition, the old software wasn't compatible with our other design equipment, like the laser cutter and the plotter." This last point was particularly important, because even less complex

projects for the youngest students at the school involved a lot of reformatting. The result? Unnecessary effort, wasted time, and a lot of frustration all round.

"We realized we needed to do something, especially because of the compatibility issues", notes Burkhill. And the requirements were quite clear. The school needed a single package that combined all the functionality needed by the students to do produce top quality design work. The selected product needed to be compatible with all the necessary design equipment. And of course, it needed to offer great value for money.

"In the end, it wasn't a difficult decision," says Burkhill. "CorelDRAW Graphics Suite enables our students to do everything within a single package. It's compatible with all the other design equipment they need to use. And it's affordable." So, the school decided to purchase 44 CTL-licenses for CorelDRAW Graphics Suite Education.

The perfect package

Jon Bell is the Head of Design and Technology at TGS. He has seen the difference that CorelDRAW has made at first hand. "The Corel software is simply much easier for the students to use," says Bell. "And it's compatible with our laser cutter, which is central to many of the projects the students work on." These projects range from the design of confectionary packaging, to point-of-sale displays and even board games. Students use CorelDRAW to design and add graphics, logos and images to a net, which can be sent to the laser cutter without any need for reformatting or switching software.

As Bell notes, this has enabled everyone to work more efficiently. "Our students now only have to learn one piece of software, and it does everything we need it to do." Moreover, as Burkhill and Bell agree, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite is much more intuitive than the software they used in the past. "One of the key benefits of CorelDRAW is the ease of use," comments Bell.



A Tadcaster Grammar School student navigates through CorelDraw's easy-to-use menus.



Take-away anyone? A menu and packaging for Chinese food, designed by TGS students using CorelDRAW

"For example, when you select a particular tool using the icons on the left hand side of the screen, all the associated functions appear along the top. This makes it much easier for students to navigate their way around the software. They can work more independently and explore the functionality on their own. That saves time for the teachers, and the students gain confidence in their ability more quickly."

Crucially, Bell also believes that CorelDRAW Graphics Suite is enabling students to create higher quality work. "The standard of work the students are producing now is much higher," he says. "That means more of them have the potential to access the higher grades at either GCSE or A'Level. And because Corel is industry standard software, they will have an advantage when they arrive at a university or an employer that uses it too."



Professional-looking packaging created as part of the Graphic Products GCSE course

Ultimately, CTL-licenses of CorelDRAW Graphics Suite Education has provided TGS with exactly what was needed. An industry standard design software package, with comprehensive functionality, that's easy to use, and enables students to maximize their grades. And as for the return on their investment?

Perhaps Burkhill sums it up best when he concludes: "CorelDRAW Graphics Suite offers us great value for money. My only regret is that this year, we didn't have the budget to buy more licenses!"



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