



## North East Worcestershire College Business Intelligence in Action

**North East Worcestershire College achieve another outstanding success with the implementation of their new iCapella enterprise reporting system**



North East Worcestershire College is a large General Further Education College based on two main campuses in Bromsgrove and Redditch, which offers courses in more than 80 community and employer premises across the area. For a number of years the College has been undergoing changes that have included ever improving examination results, the creation of a successful and well-established Sixth Form centre and radical improvements to its accommodation that have transformed the college into one of the most modern facilities in the UK.

Over recent years they have been working hard to ensure that students have the very best opportunities to realise their potential. So much so, that in their recent OFSTED inspection became officially one of the best colleges in the country being judged as 'Outstanding' with visiting inspectors awarding an almost unprecedented clean sweep of five grade 1s.

The scope of the College ranges from school links, through a range of pre-vocational and non-vocational courses, NVQ, AVCE Diplomas and Certificates in Further and Higher Education levels, to professional and post-graduate courses.

In addition, the College also undertakes extensive work-based training, funded by government agencies and employers. The College annually recruits in excess of 19,000 students, of whom approximately 2,000 are full time. Some 42% of students are taught in community venues and the College is committed to further extending its work amongst adults and young people who have not traditionally participated in further education.

Large numbers of school pupils aged 14-16 undertake 'link' courses in College, whilst many adults return to learn after many years away from education and training. The College employs around 500 full and part time staff and engages an additional 200 on an agency basis. The College's character and strategic priorities are determined by its Corporation, a group of 14 individuals drawn from diverse parts of our local community who act as governors of the College.

### The Vision

The College's Corporate Services Team have achieved a reputation of providing timely and relevant financial information to the college's; SMT, budget holders and other users of financial information.

Ron Howells - Assistant Principal, Corporate Services, has a vision to "provide all college staff with an information portal that will personalise the delivery of relevant financial and operational information they need to deliver excellent services".

The key requirement being to provide a cost effective system that can deliver consolidated college wide information from a single system without having to have staff access separate systems.



Ron Howells and some of the Corporate Services Team



*Bromsgrove Campus*

## The steps

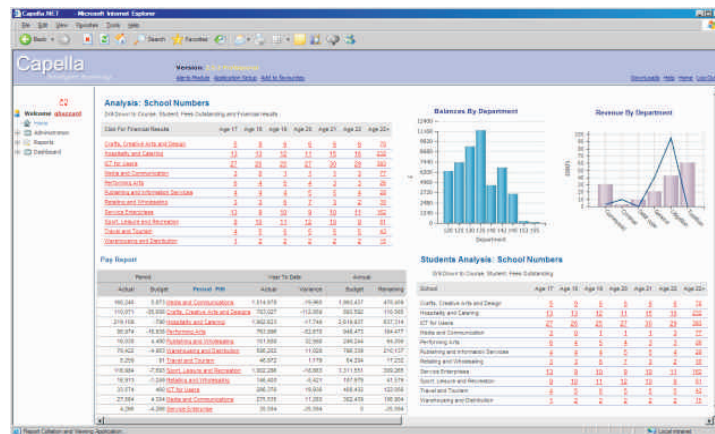
Traditionally, financial reporting has been delivered from a combination of direct access to the college's Finance System (Mondas) and excel spreadsheets. Key financial reports are now being automatically scheduled and delivered using the iCapella system. The system provides users with the ability to automatically receive their personalised budget and operational reports which allows immediate drill down to their transactions. Simon Moron, Finance Manager says the system has "reduced the number of queries raised by budget holders to the finance team and improved the information content we provide to them".

The next step is to deliver a consolidated performance dashboard to all staff. This will encompass Financial, MIS and other system reports from a single dashboard.



## The solution Information Delivery

The first phase of report development was focused on developing the College's main financial report which would access data from Mondas. This report contains actual and budget information for the college and is grouped into cost centres. Staff have the ability to drill down on specific cost centre values through to the transactional data which gives them vital information on their current spending in comparison to their budgets.



they are presented with the information that is specific to them. Budget holders will only be authorised to view cost centres that have been allocated to them.

## System Efficiencies

Compared to their previous reporting environment iCapella has given many benefits. A previously lengthy report creation, customisation and distribution process has been simplified by the use of a hidden parameter based on the user's login. This has meant that a

single report can be deployed which contains all information for all users but is specific to the user when they access it. This has given significant time savings, is more efficient and the end result is a report

that is user-friendly and personal to the end user, which is easy to access, navigate and with drilldown.

## Automated Scheduling and Distribution of Reports

The budget report is automatically distributed at pre-specified intervals to budget holders throughout the college. The budget holders will then automatically receive an email that notifies them that the report has been refreshed. Attached is a link to view the report. When a budget holder logs onto iCapella to view the report,

## Training

The objective was to enable users to be able to develop and maintain their own reporting environment. Generic training and structured workshops are being carried out to ensure full knowledge transfer so they are self sufficient.

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