

## BSF Kent Schools ICT Solution



Northgate Education was appointed as Kent County Council's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provider in October 2008 as part of the Kent Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. Eleven schools will benefit from the initial £29 million investment in ICT provided by Northgate Education. Once completed, Northgate Education will begin work on the remaining 25 schools in these districts.

With ICT firmly embedded in the education vision of Kent schools, BSF will allow for even more innovative ICT to be used in classrooms as well as providing tools to help teachers improve the delivery of education. Committed to 'anytime-anywhere learning', schools will be working closely with Northgate Education to provide learners, parents and teachers with access to education resources via any internet enabled device.

As part of the innovative ICT available, each learner will have access to “N-able”, Northgate’s online Managed Learning Environment (MLE), N-able provides students with their own personalised learning area with the support and assistance they need to maximise independent study and to progress in line with their own individual learning plan. Accessible via the internet from any location, N-able gives each learner their own online space to work on assignments, store work and access emails allowing them to communicate with teachers and fellow students. Each teacher has a digital toolbox providing them with resources to continually assess pupil's work and offer as much or as little guidance as they might need. N-able also allows the school to incorporate management and administration systems in one place, for example pupil attendance, as well as achievements in coursework and exams which can be provided to parents.

“ICT is central to KCC's vision for Building Schools for the Future and by working very closely with Northgate Education we are turning our plans into reality. By equipping our BSF schools with state of the art ICT facilities we will not only improve the business of education through more efficient school management process, greater collaboration and the sharing of resources, but also raise attainment and transform the educational opportunities available for young people.”

**Grahame Ward, Kent BSF Programme Director**

By working alongside the design and build teams, including architects and construction companies, Northgate continues to ensure ICT is embedded into the design process of each school at every stage. Kent schools will no longer have traditional classrooms but ‘learning spaces’ - ICT rich environments which allow learners to make full use of ICT to enhance their education experience and to engage in their own learning. Encouraging extended community interaction, the new ICT provision will also support Kent’s vision to provide a range of services and facilities for children, adults and the local community throughout and beyond the school day.

### **Overview of ICT Managed Service in Kent**

- **N-able Integrated Managed Learning Environment**
  - On-line access to portal anytime, anywhere and from any device
  - Frontier learning platform and on-line content
  - Mail and communications
  - Reporting
  - Integration of e-registration
- **Provision and management of school based infrastructure**
  - Central support – helpdesk and remote management
  - Local support - on-site technical teams
  - Wired and wireless network
  - Teacher tool kits - mobile devices/ interactive whiteboard/specialist equipment
  - Student access devices - desktop/mobile devices and SEN equipment
  - Managed Print

- Wide Area Network  
WAN and Data centre provision and management
- Curriculum software  
Authority wide and school specific software and business applications
- Change Management