

Melbourne High School: Versatile colour laser printing on demand

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CASE STUDY



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John Tsinidis - IT Manager, Melbourne High School

Victoria's only selective State School for boys in Years 9-12, Melbourne High School stands as one of Australia's finest schools. Its history can be traced back to 1854 with the establishment of the National Model School, which in 1905 became the Continuation School, the first state secondary school in Victoria. Now, with 1375 students, the school lays claim to an impressive number of highly regarded old boys – Sir John Eccles, 1963 Nobel Prize Winner in medicine, Ian Macfarlane, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, and Keith Miller, arguably Australia's greatest cricketing all-rounder.

Challenge

- ◆ Provide students and teachers with versatile colour printing facilities
- ◆ Create lesson materials, handouts and documents that have greater impact than monochrome prints
- ◆ Reduce administration overheads required for network printer management

Solution

- ◆ Epson AcuLaser C2600N Colour Laser Printer

Benefits

- ◆ More readily understood documents through use of colour for charts and tables
- ◆ Simple and straightforward printer management and maintenance
- ◆ Easily configured for either colour or monochrome printing

The Epson AcuLaser C2600N

Just as most other IT managers, Melbourne High School's IT Manager, John Tsinidis, is very careful about what technologies are integrated within the school's IT environment; and when it comes to colour printing, he has a number of very firm ideas.

"In education there is a great demand for colour printing," Tsinidis states. "Students are constantly striving to deliver high quality work and for the teachers, the use of colour helps them develop lesson materials, handouts and documents that have a much greater impact than is the case with monochrome printing."

It was with those needs in mind that Tsinidis met with Epson laser printer specialists to identify a colour laser printer that would be most appropriate for the school's needs. Rather than outline a series of specific application requirements, Tsinidis emphasised the requirements for a fully networkable printer with the characteristics and features that would make it versatile and useable in virtually all areas of the school – from administration to classroom. The solution was an Epson AcuLaser C2600N colour laser printer.

Improved data presentation

During initial trials of the AcuLaser C2600N, Tsinidis assessed the printer's speed and colour quality by means of printing large numbers of reports for use in staff meetings. He explains: "When I started using the printer for those reports, especially reports containing large amounts of complex graphs and charts, the effectiveness of colour was immediately apparent.

"Where previously I would be required to spend time drawing people's attention to specific areas of charts and tables, the use of colour automatically draws their attention. The result is that the flow of our meetings is much smoother than I've ever seen."



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While the printer's colour capabilities alone represent significant advantages, it is the printer's combination of colour *and* speed that establishes its superiority. "This goes back to what I was saying earlier about the need for quality and performance," he says. "It's no good having the ability to generate high quality colour documents if you're forced to wait too long for the prints to be made.

"With the AcuLaser C2600N, I'm able to quickly make changes to documents prior to meetings and print sufficient quantities in plenty of time."

Functions that provide illustrated step-by-step assistance for management and maintenance operations. In education, where anyone from young students right through to IT professionals may be required to change toner cartridges or fix paper jams, this built-in assistance feature adds significantly to the printer's suitability.

The measurement of versatility

According to Tsinidis, the ultimate value of a colour laser printer in the education environment is measured in terms of versatility – the printer's ability to provide high quality output across a multitude of applications. "Already," he says, "we have been using the printer for applications that include high volume report printing, printing photos taken during school excursions, creating posters for school concerts and other events, and we're now exploring its use in the science curriculum."

Adding further to the versatility of the AcuLaser C2600N is the ability to configure the printer as either a colour printer or, with up to four individual monochrome toner cartridges, a monochrome-only printer for high volume black-and-white document printing.

"We see this as an important feature of the printer, and yet another facet of its versatility. As we move forward with the possibility of introducing additional printers, one option would be to purchase multiple AcuLaser C2600Ns with some configured for monochrome only operations in administration, for example, and others as colour models to be used elsewhere throughout the school.

"Essentially, it gives us all the benefits of maintaining and supporting a single model that can be used in any application environment."

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Melbourne High School



Simplified maintenance

Figuring high on Tsinidis' printer requirements list is ease-of-maintenance; an important feature given that teachers in particular are often working on multiple tasks simultaneously *and* to tight schedules. "The AcuLaser C2600N's reliability is actually supporting our teachers," he says. "They can concentrate on what they need to do for their classes without being concerned about the technologies they're using to achieve that. It's simply there – and it works!"

Adding further to the AcuLaser C2600N's high ease-of-maintenance levels is a wide panel LCD screen and built-in Help

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