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Trinity College Gawler

Situated across five Adelaide schools and with 3,500 students ranging from kindergarten to Year 12, Trinity College Gawler Inc. is one of Australia's largest leading independent schools. As a college that heavily utilises and relies on technology in the curriculum and business operations, reliability, performance and quality are the three primary criteria that must be met by all new IT products. Meeting - and exceeding - those basic requirements is one of the college's most recent implementations - an A3 Epson AcuLaser C9100 printing solution.

Making the best match
Implemented and supported by Trinity's primary IT partner, Adelaide-based Commander, the AcuLaser C9100 has become an integral part of the college's imaging and printing solutions. According to Commander Account Manager, Daniel Sinclair, the AcuLaser 9100 represents an ideal match between technologies and business needs within the college. "We're heavily in the business of providing printing solutions, which means we place an enormous emphasis on ensuring that whatever printing solution we recommend to a client is going to meet their requirements at every level - operational, support and cost," he says.

Versatility and quality
Trinity College Gawler System Administrator, Martin de Koning, comments: "We have a quite diverse range of printing requirements, so a single networkable printer that is able to deliver high quality colour and monochrome prints in A4 and A3 really seemed to fit the bill."

In discussing the versatility and quality of the AcuLaser C9100, de Koning points to one of the most demanding applications to which the printer has been put - supporting the college's art department, particularly senior year art students. As a result of the printer's economy and, more importantly, high quality graphic and colour output, students utilising digital art tools are now able to print samples of their work during development.

"While the art department has an A3 Epson Stylus Photo 2100 colour inkjet for final printing, students are being encouraged to use the AcuLaser 9100 for prints other than final works for submission," de Koning explains. "We found that while there was a small degree of reluctance initially, once the students saw the quality of the laser prints, the reluctance quickly turned to enthusiastic support; and this is from students who have been studying art for up to six years and are far more critical of quality and colour than anyone else in the college community."

Staff members too have been quick to realise - and exploit - the features and benefits of the AcuLaser 9100. "When we introduced them to the AcuLaser 9100 it wasn't long before

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COLOUR LASER PRINTER

they were printing posters and recently, one of the teachers printed 400 ball tickets and programmes on the printer. Essentially, it's a versatile resource that's growing in popularity and use," de Koning says.

Speed counts

With the AcuLaser 9100's 4-2-1 Tandem engine, the college is reaping the benefits of an A3 colour laser printer capable of print speeds every bit as fast as similarly sized monochrome printers. "With all the colours being processed simultaneously, the printer is quite literally pushing out pages just as fast as any one of our monochrome printers can," de Koning says.

"Given the printer is being used by students and staff for an enormous number of applications, print speed really is of the essence. Definitely, the AcuLaser 9100's speed is a major factor in our ability to provide A4 through to A3 colour printing right across the college *without* having to worry about people - and jobs - queuing up for ages."

In commenting further on the AcuLaser 9100's speed, de Koning says that it's more than just the rate of pages per minute that contributes to a printer's overall speed. "Warm-up time is one of those things that people tend to overlook when they're considering laser printers," he says. "We have one third-party colour laser printer that has a 10 minute warm-up period. So if that printer is used right after lunch or any other extended period of inactivity, it's at least 10 minutes before the first page comes out.

"With the AcuLaser 9100, though, it's less than a minute; and this is particularly important in a class environment where periods are of a fixed time and you can't afford to have students waiting around for their work to be printed. This is definitely one of the major benefits of the new printer."

Simplicity and ease

While the AcuLaser 9100 has gained enthusiastic support from staff and students, de Koning has his own set of requirements, most notably in the areas of reliability and maintenance. "It's all well and good to bring in technologies that deliver great results," he says. "But if those results require the technology to be constantly repaired or maintained, then it doesn't make a lot of sense at the end of the day.

"With the 9100 we have the best of both worlds. When we implemented the printer it took barely minutes to bring live on to our network. Since then it's been one of the only printers on the network that's been relatively trouble free; and from an IT manager's perspective, that's a high recommendation."

Economy too has been one of the AcuLaser 9100's strong benefits with the college. According to de Koning, several months after installation, the printer is still running on its first set of toner cartridges.

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