

Press Release

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BRUM SCHOOL RECIEVES EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Christmas has come early for a Birmingham school after taking delivery of state-of-the-art computer equipment donated by kind-hearted train operator, CrossCountry.

Lordswood Boys Specialist Sports College and Sixth Form Centre, based on the city's Hagley Road, has installed 40 personal computers (PCs) into a classroom to be used in a variety of lessons by its pupils. The PCs include LCD flat screen monitors, DVD-equipped hard drives, keyboards and mice.

Andy Cooper, Managing Director at CrossCountry said; "Technology and especially the internet has rapidly become part of every day life in schools as it helps so much with education, learning and research.

We are delighted that the pupils at Lordswood Boys will be able to benefit from the PCs now and well into the future. We are sure that this early Christmas present will contribute to improving their learning and hopefully give some enjoyment too."

David Hadley-Pryce, Head Teacher at Lordswood Boys Specialist Sports College and Sixth Form Centre commented; "We have put an enormous investment into our IT facilities in the last six months, refurbishing three ICT suites and equipping every classroom with an interactive whiteboard. This generous donation from CrossCountry really is the icing on the cake, and allows us to set up a fourth ICT suite and supply other areas with small clusters of computers."

Mr Hadley-Pryce added; "These expanded facilities will make full use of our new school network and help to give the boys a 21st century education. My sincere thanks go to CrossCountry for their generosity and forward thinking in their support for education."

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Notes to editors

- Lordswood Boys Specialist Sports College and Sixth Form Centre opened in 1957 as a Boys Technical School, designed and equipped to provide a technical education. The emphasis was on practical work which would enable understanding to develop through "doing". It is interesting to compare this approach with the recent trend in GCSE which also emphasises learning by "doing".
- In 1962 the School was given Grammar-Technical status. Students were selected by examination for entry. In 1973 the School was changed yet again. This time it became a Country Comprehensive with all-ability intake. The school was awarded an Arts Mark in 2003 in recognition of excellence in Art, Drama, and Music. Many students elect to stay on after 16 in the sixth form where there are well-established courses at Advanced level and GNVQ. The school is extremely popular; each year there are almost double the number of applicants as there are placements.
- CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk
- CrossCountry is part of the Arriva group which operates transport services in twelve European countries, employs more than 40,000 people and provides more than one billion passenger journeys every year. For more information about the Arriva group visit www.arriva.co.uk

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