msplab.

The IT Authority for Independent Schools.

STAY AHEAD THIS Summer

'Pre-Flight' IT Essentials for a Confident Return to School

Make the most of the holidays to refresh and future-proof your digital environment. At MSP LAB, we work exclusively with leading Independent Schools and understand your priorities - safeguarding, reliability, pupil outcomes, and value for money. Our top summer 'pre-flight' IT checks are designed to help you enter September fully prepared for a smooth start.

To stay on course, check out our quick video series for a closer look at key priorities before take-off.

Take stock of your hardware, software, and classroom technology

Now's the perfect time to review your IT roadmap and set fresh priorities for the year ahead. Whilst the visible tech shapes perception, the behind-the-scenes systems are just as critical to keep up-to-date

▶ Watch our quick talk to find out more

1 REVIEW YOUR IT SET-UP

- Are classroom and staff devices still performing effectively?
- Are systems and software up to date and supported?
- Do your IT investments still align with your strategic goals?

2 AUDIT NETWORK & WI-FI PERFORMANCE

- Test real-world Wi-Fi performance across the entire campus, including boarding houses and outbuildings.
- Upgrade aging network infrastructure to prevent disruption.
- Ensure secure, segmented access for pupils, staff, and guests.

AI powered digital teaching tools, streaming, and BYOD programmes all rely on fast, stable connectivity

If you're planning new digital initiatives for the forthcoming year, 1:1 / bring-your-own-device schemes or additional classroom technology, ensure your network can support them.

▶ Watch our quick talk to find out more

Protect your school from cyber threats - Safeguard sensitive data and reputation

Working towards Cyber Essentials certification provides assurance to parents and governors as well as offering schools a recognised set of benchmarks to assess their cyber position against.

▶ Watch our quick talk to find out more

3 STRENGTHEN CYBER SECURITY

- Enforce strong password policies and implement multi-factor authentication.
- Review firewall and antivirus systems.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments and consider Cyber Essentials certification.

4 CLEAN UP USER ACCOUNTS

- Remove old accounts and update permissions.
- Automate onboarding and offboarding processes.
- Set up class groups and access rights in advance.

Prepare for staff and pupil transitions

With the changes to staff and pupil accounts at the start and end of the school year, it's important to follow a documented account creation process. This also helps with cyber security and safeguarding, making sure staff and pupils only access what they should.

▶ **Watch our quick talk to find out more**

Review Software Licensing

Decide which new tools or projects to roll out more widely, and drop anything that's not adding value. Use feedback from your IT Steering Group to make a fresh start for the new school year.

▶ **Watch our quick talk to find out more**

5 REVIEW SOFTWARE LICENCES

- Ask staff about 'unofficial' tools they use - especially AI-powered apps.
- Check that all licences and subscriptions are current.
- Consider consolidating software suppliers or investing in training to maximise existing platforms.
- Consider enforcing an application approvals process.

6 TEST BACKUPS & CONTINUITY PLANS

- Ensure all critical data is securely backed up and recoverable.
- Your disaster recovery plan must reflect current contacts, systems, and procedures.
- Make sure any single points of failure are addressed now, not during an emergency.

Ensure learning continues uninterrupted - be fully prepared for any disruption

Review and update your disaster recovery plan now. Systems, contacts, and responsibilities change frequently, preparation now will prevent panic later.

▶ **Watch our quick talk to find out more**

Support confident tech use by building digital skills into staff development

Schedule ongoing training, CPD, and mentoring to keep everyone up to speed in a constantly evolving IT landscape.

▶ **Watch our quick talk to find out more**

7 PREPARE & SUPPORT STAFF

- Arrange refresher training before term starts and promote the correct channels for IT support.
- Offer tailored support for teachers, admin staff, and pastoral teams.

We love to talk.

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