



Sector: Further Education

Solution: Meraki WiFi, switches and s/w licence

Services: WiFi survey, design, configuration and support

Highlights:

- LMA (co-owned by Robbie Williams) is committed to using the latest technology to support digital learning and teaching at its state-of-the-art campuses in Liverpool and London.
- The academy has over 1,000 students connecting and sharing information on its network at any one time, so robust, secure WiFi is essential.
- LMA recognised it needed a more superior wireless network infrastructure that would support its connectivity and security needs and could be managed remotely.
- Redway completed a predictive WiFi survey as the LMA was closed due to Coronavirus and the results were then verified using Ekahau heatmapping software.
- Redway recommended a Meraki cloud-based networking solution as it would provide robust, high-density wireless coverage and the network could be monitored and managed remotely via a single cloud app.
- LMA now has a high-performing Meraki WiFi solution that meets all its connectivity needs and will support the academy as it continues to expand and adopts new technology and devices in the future.

LMA College (Liverpool and London)

LMA improves access to digital teaching and learning with a new cloud-based wireless network.

Following a surge in student applications and expansion to two new state-of-the-art campuses in Liverpool's Metquarter and East London's former Olympic site, LMA has selected a new high-efficiency Cisco Meraki wireless solution from WiFi experts Redway Networks.

The new Meraki cloud-based networking solution will provide a robust, secure wireless infrastructure to support the increased demand on internet services following the academy's upgrade to 80% of its technical equipment and integration with its Google virtual learning environment. Students will now benefit from robust, high-density WiFi from no matter where they are on campus and the management team will have complete visibility and control of the network via the cloud.

LMA is a creative media, music and performing arts academy who works in partnership with Staffordshire University and is co-owned by global superstar Robbie Williams.

The academy provides world-class facilities for students and staff and believes in using cutting-edge technology as the tool to enhance student interaction so hyper-reliable wireless connectivity is essential.

Current WiFi can't support LMA's network traffic

Oliver Morris, technical manager for LMA says: "We have over 1,000 students in Liverpool all accessing our Google platform and sharing classroom content, videos and YouTube clips simultaneously so there's a lot of traffic. When we upgraded most of our technical equipment, it really highlighted the fact that our existing network could not cope with demand."

"All our applications are accessed via the cloud so strong WiFi is important. Also, we are in the centre of Liverpool's shopping district, so network security is also an issue as it's vital we keep our students safe online. It was obvious we needed a more sophisticated wireless infrastructure that would provide reliable, faster connections with superior security and device management via the cloud."

LMA selects Meraki from Redway

Oliver says: "After a disappointing service from another WiFi vendor, I reached out to Redway Networks as I was impressed with the company's credentials and the fact, they had experience in the education sector. When I spoke to Redway it was obvious that they could help us, and I arranged a consultation call to go through our network requirements".

Due to Coronavirus, Redway Networks couldn't perform a WiFi survey on-site, so used a predictive survey model using LMA's building plans to model the environment and visualise how the new network would perform. The results were then verified using Ekahau WiFi heatmaps to establish all LMA's requirements were met. Redway then recommended a Meraki cloud-based wireless solution for robust, high-density wireless coverage and high-grade switches and access points which can be configured via the cloud to remove the cost of on-site wireless controllers.

LMA is impressed with Redway's service

Oliver says: "I was really impressed with the service I received from Redway and the amount of time they spent with us on the heatmapping. If I had a query their engineer responded immediately and made the whole process seamless. I really liked the Meraki product and because Redway Networks is an official Cisco Meraki Reseller they were able to organise a two-week free trial of the Meraki units so we could try them on our network and experience the power of cloud management".

LMA benefits from superior WiFi

Redway Networks then installed 15 cloud-controlled APs at the Liverpool campus and 10 in London. Oliver says: "Being able to push all our networking management functions to the cloud has made my life a lot easier as I have complete visibility of both networks from anywhere in the world via the cloud app. I can now do network tweaks and amends, see any dropouts or errors, customise bandwidth, protect against security threats and maintain complete control over all the devices and users on the network – which is vital for improving the digital learning experience and keeping our students safe online."

Oliver continues: "Meraki's high-performing, cloud-managed WiFi meets all our connectivity needs and I know it will support us as we add more technology and devices in the future. Redway Networks has given us a great service from start to finish and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend them."



Wireless Solutions. Made Simple.

Redway Networks is a leading WiFi specialist with expertise in the planning, design and installation of enterprise-wide wireless networking solutions that deliver affordability, scalability, and a frictionless deployment to its customers. Using world-leading wireless technology, Redway Networks supports all your connectivity needs and provides a robust foundation for your digital business.