



**Cranmer**  
Education Trust



Case Study

# The Cranmer Education Trust



**CloudDesignBox**



SharePoint



Teams



Microsoft 365

**The Cranmer Education Trust was founded in 2015 when The Blue Coat school (former single academy trust in 2011) converted to a MAT. It now embraces the full age range, from nursery to sixth form, across its seven schools.**



**The Trust continues to grow; three more schools will join in 2025 (one two-form entry primary school and two large secondary schools).**

The Trust's mission is to be a leader in education and a provider of excellent schools which nurture young people and enable all to achieve, progress and experience success.

The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy is a new inclusive, co-educational, Church of England secondary school in central Oldham, which opened in September 2021. It has a capacity for 1,200 students and was founded to serve those of all faiths and denominations, and those of none. It provides an excellent education to a student population that is aspirational, multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-talented – a community that is a microcosm of the borough of Oldham as a whole.



# A fresh start with the latest technology

The Brian Clarke Academy has been using Cloud Design Box (CDB) since it opened.

“We didn’t want to just use the same technology that we’ve been using for some time in the other schools, we wanted to try something that we hadn’t done before. We didn’t want to rely on traditional on-site servers, so chose to look at Microsoft’s SharePoint and Teams.”



**Craig Hawes**  
Trust's IT Director

Having come across a clip of the Cloud Design Box solution online, Craig felt it was exactly what they needed so he engaged with the CDB team, and soon decided to implement it at the new Academy.

Given the school was new and had no data, they were able to start with a blank sheet of paper. Mr Hawes continued

“There will always be a few issues rolling out a new solution, but the help and assistance from the entire team at CDB made it a lot easier. Nothing was ever too much trouble, you could ask almost anything and they’d get it sorted straight away.”



**Craig Hawes**  
Trust's IT Director

## A fresh start with the latest technology



**The CDB solution enabled the school to create new Teams linked to classes automatically.**

In the three years since they first adopted CDB, they've had no issues and are starting to see measurable benefits across the whole organisation, as Craig continues:

"Other schools in the MAT used to use a virtual desktop, but students and staff at our secondary schools can now log on to Microsoft 365 with their emails and get access to everything they need using the mega menu, no matter where they are, whilst our primary schools have their own pages to access their documents."



**Craig Hawes**  
Trust's IT Director

The 'mega menu' organises navigation links so when users hover or click on the item they're looking for, a panel displays across the screen, replacing the need for scrolling. This feature alone saves a lot of time for both teachers and students.



**All schools use their own identity through bespoke branding, but each can still engage in MAT-wide collaboration with other academies.**

# Ease-of-use contributes to **cost savings** and **workload reduction**

Another major benefit is the ability for teachers to share resources by providing a simple link, which is a huge timesaving. The school also likes that the students can only see age related content. They can go backwards and access everything from previous years but can't go forward.



**Additionally, substantial savings have been made in reducing the number of Virtual Desktop licences by almost 50%.**

When talking about the team at Cloud Design Box, Mr Hawes said

"They are very professional, knowledgeable, and always keen to help. I can't really praise them highly enough. Darren explains everything in a way that's easy to understand. There's been nothing that he's not been able to find a way of doing".



**Craig Hawes**  
Trust's IT Director



## Ease-of-use contributes to cost savings and workload reduction

Mr Hawes, continued:

"CDB is a great, honest company that values service, understands education and wants to get it right. There aren't many companies like this that will go on above and beyond to make sure that you're happy with their solution. And again, it's not just Darren. It's Joanne, it's Tony. It's Joe. It's everyone we speak to. They take great pride in what they offer and that runs throughout the rest of the company. I can't recommend them highly enough".



**Craig Hawes**  
Trust's IT Director





# We'd love to hear from you

With a combination of tools in Microsoft 365 and Cloud Design Box's purpose-built education solutions, we help senior leaders find more time in their day to focus on what matters.

## Get in touch:

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