

SIMS has the depth and flexibility to support us as we continue to grow

Dulwich College (Singapore)

Dulwich College (Singapore) opened in August 2014 and currently caters for over 1,300 students, ranging in age from 2 to 14 years, representing over forty different nationalities. The College will continue to grow to over 2,500 students once the new Senior School and Performing Arts Centre opens in August 2016. As a member of one of the fastest growing independent school networks, the College draws on 400 years of experience in education, benefitting from close collaboration with the other schools in the network, including the founder school, Dulwich College London, which provides expertise, resources and a rigorous set of academic standards.

Why we chose SIMS

A year prior to opening, SIMS was already in place handling part of the Admissions process in order to better prepare for the new College. Kieron Norris, Director of ICT, explains: "SIMS is used by the other Colleges in our network and we valued its capabilities."

"SIMS offers the best solution to help us meet our long-term aims. In our first year we had a huge intake of some 900 students and SIMS played a key part in helping to optimise the process of student intake. By utilising the export/import feature we were far better prepared to meet the demands of opening a new College."

Seamless integration with third party applications

The College uses the suite of SIMS solutions to help with the management of tracking and monitoring pupil progress, conduct and staff records. They needed a system which would also work well with third party systems. "Being able to integrate SIMS with a range of partner and third party solutions means that we can continue to enhance the value of our system and provide the consolidation of data that is so important. Whilst we still have a long way to go, SIMS has ensured that we have consistency in our data." says Kieron.

SIMS International school case study

Aim:

To have a robust and flexible management information system which integrates well with other applications and supports the development of the College.

Solution:

SIMS pupil and staff management solutions including SIMS Lesson Monitor, SIMS Registration and Admissions, SIMS Assessment, SIMS Curriculum Management, SIMS Teacher app, SIMS partner products including Room Booking System and Parents Evening System.

Impact:

The College has a core database which supports the strategic aims and smooth running of the College, both now and as it grows, whilst providing all the evidence needed at inspection time, supporting the College to its successful EduTrust Certification.

"SIMS supports us with our wider strategic aims of developing the College and supporting our pupils to achieve the highest quality education."

Kieron Norris, Director of ICT

"Starting with SIMS at the very core to support us with the academic and administrative elements of running a school, we run a number of the high quality SIMS partner solutions and third party solutions, all of which draw on, and feed into and out of, our SIMS database. This includes our web-based library system, our room booking system, parents evening system, our security cards, our student and parent portal log-ins and our student card system. By putting in the work to ensure our core data is accurate, we are able to tie these different systems back to SIMS – the integration of these has worked really well and will be further developed and strengthened over time."

Supporting the College at inspection time

Kieron explains how SIMS helped when the College recently underwent the EduTrust assessment by the Council of Private Education in Singapore. "During the assessment, we demonstrated to the assessors the functionality of the system and we were able to generate real time reports for them that summarised learning data, admissions information and attendance patterns and summaries. The College has subsequently been awarded a 4 Year EduTrust Certification. With its dynamic student and data management capabilities, SIMS can be said to be one of the supporting factors that contributed to our achievement."



Confidence in the integrity of the data

Kieron values how SIMS makes it easier to keep parent and student information up to date. "The integrity of our data is paramount to us and we've been really impressed with how easy SIMS makes it to process the information gathered from parents."

Making life easier with the Teacher app

The College is well underway with making use of the SIMS Teacher app: "The Teacher app is great as it allows our teachers, for example the Sports Department, the flexibility of using the app for attendance, pupil information queries and mark sheets whilst on the go. As a keen user of Apple, we're delighted to have the Teacher app being used throughout the school, particularly during registration periods, where time is of the essence and for updating marksheets. As we expand our provisions to provide staff with a tablet device, we are looking forward to the increased functionality as the app develops."

Supporting us to meet our aims

Kieron explains how SIMS supports the College with its plans for the future:

"SIMS has been an integral part of our success; staff have embraced the system and are using SIMS as their core database for everything. It supports us in our aim of removing unnecessary admin as well as with our wider strategic aims of developing the College and supporting our pupils to achieve the highest quality education. As we develop a more robust central structure we can then impart the template to new developments such as those currently underway in Myanmar and Shanghai."

The College has more recently started implementing an in-house certification process for skills development that will run across the College for both teachers and support staff. With three levels of certification, there will be plenty of scope for candidates to demonstrate their competencies.

"The more we can consolidate, the better use we can make of the information we hold. We're confident SIMS has the depth and flexibility to support us as we continue to expand not just in Singapore but in new developments around the globe," concludes Kieron.

Sharing best practice

"When managing the administration of our Mifare cards for the new intake to pay for their lunches, check-out library books, open lockers and more, we could simply pull in the data from SIMS to generate the cards, saving many hours of administration time. SIMS has also been effective in helping to move us closer to being a cashless school by working seamlessly with our vertical payment system."

Kieron Norris, Director of ICT

5/2016

CAPITA

To find out more about SIMS International, please contact us on:

T: +44 (0)1285 647500 E: info@capita-independent.co.uk W: www.capita-independent.co.uk/sims-international