

EasyTrace Case Study at

Thomas Deacon Academy

EasyTrace delivers an integrated card management solution to the largest academy in the UK

The Thomas Deacon Academy (TDA), Peterborough, opened in September 2007 as part of the Government's Academy Programme. With 2200 students aged 11-18, the Academy specialises in maths and science. It is divided into 6 colleges, each with 370 students and each college has its own identity and style which creates a 'small school' environment.

EasyTrace is the market leader in developing and delivering integrated card and biometric solutions for education. EasyTrace solutions now have over 100,000 users in schools, colleges and academies across the UK, and are used on a daily basis to help education establishments conform to sector guidelines and demonstrate best practice, whilst delivering long-term cost savings and improved management efficiency. EasyTrace were able to provide a Smart Card solution to integrate with the TDA's 'state-of-the-art' technologies:



Cashless Catering



Access Control



Library System



E-Registration

Steve Warburton, Director of Innovation and Development, saw many benefits of having one card for all their services. TDA believed it was the best option for management of student information for the number of services the card relates to. They considered biometrics but thought a card system was more appropriate for their scale of challenge. It has been very well received by the pupils, they understood the concept of it being their ID card and how important it was in such a large establishment.

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EasyTrace is a very effective integrated solution; we would happily recommend the company. We have always had positive support from EasyTrace, who have worked hard to resolve problems.

Steve Warburton – Director of Innovation and Development
Thomas Deacon Academy

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Cashless Catering

EasyTrace Cashless Catering is the most user-friendly cashless catering system on the market. Designed to maximise catering income and the uptake of school meals, it eradicates the need for cash transactions, cuts queuing times and automates reporting and stock control.

It also enables the promotion of healthy eating and minimises the risk of bullying by reducing the need for students to carry cash in school and ensuring anonymity for those taking free school meals.

One of the key challenges at TDA was to remove cash processing from the catering system. Using the card removes the need for cash and removes the stigma of free school meals so there is no differentiation of pupils at the till. Parents know that the money is spent correctly on meals. They have found the speed of the system to be significantly higher with the card therefore reducing queuing time.

TDA have used the system to provide reports to parents on what students have eaten. 65% of students purchase food from the canteen, demonstrating that the cashless catering solution has had a positive effect.

“The speed of the Cashless Catering system is significantly higher than using cash alone and it removes the stigma of free school meals. If you’re considering a Cashless Catering solution, don’t hesitate, we would happily recommend EasyTrace.”



Access Control

EasyTrace Access Control is a flexible solution that can be tailored to a school/academy’s specific needs – whether a complete solution or integration with an existing access control system is required, we can work directly with the school/academy or with any third party contractors to achieve a solution that works.

All doors and users are managed from a single, secure, back-end database to provide whatever level of security is deemed appropriate, minimising administration time and providing peace of mind regarding who is entering and exiting the premises.

At TDA Access Control was part of the building contract rather than the IT contract and it was necessary to find an integrated solution. A further challenge came in the necessity to supervise student movement at key points around the building and at the same time keep supervision costs to a minimum.

The EasyTrace solution was able to meet these challenges and has also been fundamental in stopping unauthorised public access, as well as providing safety and security for students and staff. Having Access Control on the main gates and barriers has given TDA several layers of protection.

If another school was considering this solution, Steve would suggest that they ensure they use the same card system for Access Control.

“The EasyTrace card was able to integrate with our Access Control system which has already been beneficial in improving our security by preventing unwanted public access to our building.”



Library System

EasyTrace can integrate with a wide range of third party library systems enabling staff and students to use the same card for the library as they do to access other school/academy facilities.

Students at TDA were already used to the card concept in the library and it was therefore well received. It has enabled TDA to identify, track and reward students using the library services.

“We have found the library card system to be helpful in tracking the identification of students using the system and this enables us to reward regular users.”



E-Registration Development

EasyTrace Electronic Registration is easy to use and extremely versatile. It is configured to automatically update the school/academy’s MIS system and allows management teams to pull a variety of real-time reports such as time of registration and persons onsite or offsite.

It is particularly useful in a 6th form environment where there is a need to support student autonomy whilst also monitoring attendance.

TDA are trialling portable E-Registration readers in a ‘late system’ where students are scanned as they come in late through the main doors.



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