

## St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

### Challenging students and supporting the community with TriCaster

When St John's Catholic Comprehensive School decided that they wanted to broadcast live events and offer a more professional service to anyone who rented their hall, they turned to NewTek TriCaster for a simple recording and streaming solution. It's also given media students a taste of the industry, helped them deliver more innovative presentations, and is ready to be rolled out across the curriculum...

St John's is a large school with close ties to the local community, and its main hall is often used for masses, assemblies and local events. They'd already invested in digital signage to allow them to mirror the main presentation at any event around the hall, but wanted to take things further.

"We mainly wanted to use TriCaster for our events, so that we could offer a more professional service," explained media technician James Steadman. "We wanted to get a couple of cameras and split the signal so we could broadcast all around our Heart Space. But now we're using TriCaster 50% in lessons and 50% for events."

#### Choosing a live broadcast system

The school's ICT manager, Keith Nolan, looked at a number of solutions, but after the Jigsaw24 team came to the school and demoed NewTek TriCaster 40, they were sure they had the right kit. "Jigsaw24 came in to do the demo and were really helpful, really friendly," said James. "It was then that we thought 'yeah, we can really use this.'"

TriCaster 40 fit comfortably within the school's budget, was easy to use and had their key requirement – multiple camera inputs – but it also allowed them to create titles and graphics, add feeds from computers to their livestreams and export the finished video to YouTube, all on one machine.



Working with...



### In a nutshell...

#### Who are they?

St John's Comprehensive Catholic School are an inclusive secondary school in Kent, who recently recorded their highest ever GCSE results. Congratulations!

#### What did they need?

The school wanted a system that would let them broadcast masses and assemblies around campus, but found that actually the same system could be used across the curriculum.

#### How did we help?

We demoed, installed and continue to support NewTek's TriCaster, an industry-standard live streaming solution.

#### What were the benefits?

- The school can now create exciting, engaging live broadcasts including multiple sources.
- Events can be recorded and sent straight to YouTube without secondary editing.
- The school can offer this as a service to third parties who rent their facilities, making them a more attractive venue.
- The school can use TriCaster to produce and record evidence for assessment.
- Despite being easy to use, the functionality of TriCaster makes it ideal for stretching higher ability pupils and introducing them to a professional workflow.

“We’ve done a lot of business with Jigsaw24, and it was all hassle free and very friendly. They always give us good advice and they don’t always charge...”

**James Steadman, media technician,  
St John’s Catholic Comprehensive School.**

“The ability to amalgamate all the different media [shown in an event] into one video and record it out of TriCaster saves me hours,” explained James. “I don’t have to edit anything on the computer, as soon as the event’s over, the whole recording is there as an mp4 or QuickTime file and we can upload it straight to YouTube. It’s everything you need to publicise yourself in one device.”

### Enriching teaching and learning with industry technology

However, it’s not only at events that the school are seeing the benefits of TriCaster. “We’ve experimented with it in media – a lot of the courses here are BTECs, and discussion and development of work are very important, so anything we can do to make presentations more interesting helps a lot,” James explained.

Instead of using PowerPoint, students at St John’s now give live presentations in front of a greenscreen that shows a backdrop of their choice, while watching their own performance live on a monitor at the same time as it’s broadcast to other students. The dual camera capability of TriCaster means that they can also cut to interviews, slides or other sources during their presentation if they need to.

“TriCaster gives students extra depth to their learning, because they’re using an entry level production machine in their assignments. They’re touching on how things actually work in industry. Our next step is to start creating our own graphics to use instead of the presets, and that’s something that will help us distinguish between a low ability and a high ability student. TriCaster’s definitely making us more able to stretch our high ability students.”



### Learning to use broadcast kit in ten minutes

Learning to use TriCaster has also been pretty painless. James has a sixth form student who “got given a tutorial about ten minutes before mass began” and has been manning TriCaster and the school’s mixing desk ever since. “She’s found it really easy to use and is picking things up as she goes and learning for herself.”

Staff have also taken an interest in TriCaster, and it’s beginning to be rolled out across the curriculum. The school’s Transition class, which helps students with gaps in their numeracy and literacy, have just finished making a video for a local charity, and the English faculty are keen to incorporate it into their lessons.

“We’ve planted the TriCaster seed and it’s only going to grow,” said James. “The school has gone through many positive changes, and we’ll be using the TriCaster more to promote ourselves, and host more external events. It’s really positive.”

“People at events are genuinely wowed by it. It engages them, because they don’t see something like this often, and it means we can offer events at a professional level.”

**James Steadman, media technician,  
St John’s Catholic Comprehensive School.**

Want to know more about NewTek TriCaster and how it can help your school?  
Get in touch with the team on the details below.