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Hutchesons' Grammar School—Web Design

CUSTOMER COMMENT: "The web site is a true representation of what is going on at Hutchie at any given time and we believe it will become a major factor in spreading the word about what our school has to offer. The School worked closely with local Microsoft Certified Partners IRW Systems and it often seemed that no matter how ambitious our hopes, the reality of the site was even better."

David Elstone, Depute Rector, Hutchesons' Grammar School

THE CUSTOMER: Hutchesons' Grammar School is Glasgow's largest independent school with over 2000 boys and girls aged 3 to 18 on three sites across the south side and west end of Glasgow. The school dates back to 1641, when George and Thomas Hutcheson first set aside money to create a school that to this day enjoys an enviable reputation for achieving the highest academic standards.

THE REQUIREMENT: Hutcheson's Grammar School asked IRW Systems to create a public web site to facilitate communication with key stakeholders and the world at large, and reflect the quality of education at Hutchesons'.

THE SOLUTION: A content management system has been implemented for the public web site (Microsoft Content Management Server 2002), giving anyone within the school the facility to create web content through a familiar and easy-to-use Microsoft Word interface. This content is subsequently flowed through approval mechanisms and then published to specific target audiences in real-time. The Hutchie portal utilises Microsoft SharePoint™ Portal Server 2003 technology, and provides staff, pupils and parents personalised access to the information of most relevance to them with the minimum amount of effort. The collaborative functionality of the portal will be used extensively to create online communities of interest that support the activities within the school. Future plans for the portal include further integration with Microsoft ClassServer™ to provide the school with a complete 'Learning Gateway' infrastructure. The portal application is supported by Microsoft SQL Server database technology, and custom security functionality has been developed by IRW specifically for this project to make secure access from out-with the school domain possible.

BUSINESS BENEFITS: The project so far has provided Hutchesons' Grammar School with the following benefits:

- A completely new web site design, reflecting the quality of the learning experience available at the school
- Web site content can now be updated in real-time by staff and pupils, thereby providing an improved communications channel with key stakeholders
- A collaborative portal can now support the learning experience of all pupils