



## Dataflow Case Study Education



### 'A~Plus' Accounting Software Gets Top Marks at Wellington School

**A~Plus from Dataflow helps Wellington School provide parents with an enhanced service, thanks to its ability to produce (and reproduce) professionally presented Fee Bills and paperwork on request, every time.**

#### Background

Wellington Senior School is an HMC co-educational day and boarding school, with 850 pupils aged 10-18 years and has an annual turnover of £8m. There are also 270 co-educational day pupils aged 3-10 years attending the Junior School.

#### The dataflow A~Plus experience

Having used their existing Unix-based Multisoft accounting system for 12 years, Wellington School decided to upgrade their system three years ago and chose the A~Plus Windows-based software from Dataflow.

As one of the first Schools to implement *dataflow* A~Plus soon after it was launched, Head of Accounts at Wellington School Martin Axon was impressed with the ease with which data was transferred to the new system.

*dataflow* A~Plus can accommodate small-scale single user education establishments up to multi-user large schools and educational organisations. Its modular design allows the three users within Wellington Schools' Accounts Department to record pupils' fees, charges and other details to produce fee bills quickly and easily. The A~Plus software provides both 'Parent' and 'Pupil' ledgers plus a Payroll module which fully integrates with the financial ledgers.

#### Reduction in paperwork proves a big time-saver

Martin Axon notes: "The main benefit of the new system is practical, in terms of the huge reduction in the amount of paperwork generated. The previous system couldn't retain as much information to access instantly, so to ensure that we always had records to hand, we used to have to print two copies of every bill, one for the customer, and one for our records.

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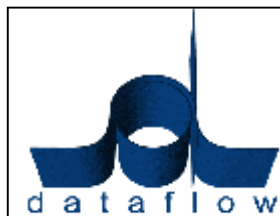


Now because A~Plus can hold so much information that it takes just 2 hours to print all bills and statements every month which is very quick!"

The A~Plus software not only provides a simple way of recording fees and charges incurred by the pupils, it enables Wellington School to offer an improved service to parents: "A~Plus lets you look through data which is years old. For example, if a parent asks for a copy of their bill for Spring Term 2004, we can print a copy straight off for them", observes Martin.

*dataflow* A~Plus provides the facility to hold as many fees as required, with unlimited adjustments against each record, so it is extremely flexible and user friendly. Parents know that the accounts team at Wellington School can instantly access any fee or financial information they may want to know about.

Another way that A~Plus helps Wellington School to deliver excellent customer service to its Parents is the option to e-mail bills directly and the option to organise bill payments by Direct Debit.



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E-mailing and using Direct Debit not only saves Wellington School physical costs in terms of stationery and postage but administration time is also cut. E-mail bills are very convenient for parents and paying by Direct Debit is a secure and fast way to know that their school fee payments are being processed.

The automatic bill production feature in *dataflow* A~Plus also produces Fee Bills to all the fee payers, producing split bills where necessary. Wellington School are looking to implement cheque printing in the near future to further automate processes and save time and administration.

**“The system is very flexible and it is easy to go in and make even small amendments.”**

### Flexibility is a key benefit of A~Plus

*dataflow* A~Plus offers a number of advantages to users who need to undertake a range of tasks in their daily routine as multiple user screens can be open at the same time. Because A~Plus is Windows based it is possible to switch between different data views, which Martin Axon and his team really appreciate: “The advantage of the Windows-based system we now have with A~Plus is that you can drop in and out of things as you need to.” He adds: “The system is very flexible, and it is easy to go in and make even small amendments.”

A~Plus also allows for an unlimited number of documents to be associated with system data – these can be in any format, including Word, Excel or scanned documents – which can then be viewed using the comprehensive *dataflow* enquiry screens. This means that all records and information associated with a Pupil or Parent can be kept together in the system and ‘filed’ for easy identification and retrieval.

*dataflow* A~Plus is designed to allow for easy navigation, offering the ability to quickly drill down from a nominal ledger account balance to the originating transactions, such as fee notes and purchase invoices.

Wellington School’s Bursar therefore finds it easy to refer to A~Plus for detailed information on any transactions in addition to providing a clear overview of the School’s financial situation at any time in the detail he requires. A~Plus also offers many standard reports and can link to Microsoft Office ® products such as Word or Excel to create bespoke reports for the school as required.

### *dataflow* A~Plus grows with the School

The A~Plus system now in place at Wellington School has expanded with the school itself, which has grown by a third in the last four years due to the establishment of a new Junior School. Despite the increase in pupil numbers and inevitable adjustments to school systems and processes, existing accounts staff members have been well able to deal with the additional workload thanks in part to the flexibility and scalability of A~Plus. A~Plus has accommodated all the extra accounting and administration requirements of opening a new school and increasing pupil numbers by over 30% - admirably demonstrating its inherent scalability.

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Dariush Mogtader, Managing Director of Dataflow UK, comments, “We are delighted that through *dataflow* A~Plus we are able to provide Wellington School with a fully integrated, powerful and user-friendly system.”

Dataflow’s Management Systems are already helping many companies to realise their true growth potential through streamlining their business processes. If you would like further information, please contact us on 0845 456 1020.

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