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LEVEL 1/2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN ICT

R001/01 Understanding Computer Systems

PRE-RELEASE CASE STUDY

JANUARY 2014



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- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Information for Learners

Schools are required to store and maintain data about the students who attend that school. A lot of this data, such as attendance and test results, is based on figures that the school generates. Other data is gathered from parents. Many schools employ staff to manage and maintain the data that is collected and stored. These staff often work as a team in one office. (Scenario 1)

Schools often perform events for which they sell tickets. The organisation of these events is usually shared between staff and students. (Scenario 2)

Scenario 1

Austin School is one of six high schools catering for students aged between 11 and 16 years of age. Parents can select any one of these six schools for their children and so the school recruits students from across the city. The school employs four people to collect and manage the data that is stored about students. They are called the Data Team and are based in a medium-sized office. Two members of the team job share, so the office is equipped with only three desktop computers. During particularly busy times of the year, all of the team will be asked to work at the same time. When this happens, a laptop computer is provided so that all four members of the team can work in the same office at the same time.

After much research, Austin School has bought a software package called The Data Rich Information Management System. This system uses a database to organise and store information about students.

At the end of every school year, each primary school from across the city sends **all** their data for **all** their year 6 students to each of the high schools. Austin School then imports the data it receives into The Data Rich Information Management System, ready for the start of the new school year. However, if a student joins the school from a different part of the country, all that student's data is entered manually.

Scenario 2

The Head of English at Austin School has written a play called 'The Firework Knights'. This play is going to be performed at the school on the evenings of the 5th to the 9th of December.

A poster and ticket need to be designed for the play. Two students, Maria and Stephen, have volunteered to create the wording and layout of these items. The Head of Art has already created some graphics for the poster. Maria and Stephen only have a weekend to do this work and they will not be able to meet up. They have agreed that Stephen will design and create the poster and Maria will design and create the ticket using desktop publishing software. They will then send their work to each other for feedback.

People will be able to order tickets for the performance by completing an online form. Applicants for tickets will be asked to state the night they wish to attend and the number of tickets they require. They will also be asked to give their full name and phone number.

Preparation

In order to prepare for the examination, you should research how student information is managed in schools. This should include:

- the factors that may influence the choice of information management system to use
- the software and hardware required to run an information management system

You will also need to find out how legislation affects:

- the storing, transferring and using of personal information
- the employers, staff, students and production of documents.

You should find out about how a range of documents may be created that would be used in conjunction with a school play.

This should include:

- the software and hardware that can be used to create the documents, with particular focus on hardware, including graphics tablets, that may be used to create high quality graphics
- the use of ICT to collect information and data from third parties
- techniques for combining data held in different formats.

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