



## International primary school increases inclusivity and engagement in the classroom with Ricoh



Leipzig International School modernises the learning experience by giving students and teachers new possibilities with Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards.

### Company & Challenge

Leipzig International School (LIS) is an independent, non-profit co-educational school in Germany. With over 1,000 students of all ages and around 200 teachers and administrative staff, LIS strives to create an inclusive learning community in a multi-lingual learning environment. Fostering creativity and entrepreneurial skills through interdisciplinary learning, the school focuses on academic as well as personal growth to inspire students. LIS offers widely recognised qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

To develop a more inclusive and stimulating learning experience, Leipzig International School (LIS) wanted to modernise its classrooms. The school was looking to replace ageing whiteboards and projectors with cutting-edge educational technologies in a major upgrade of its educational equipment.

Jocelyn Gamble, Education Technology Specialist at LIS emphasizes the school's forward-looking approach, asserting, "We want to position ourselves for the future, delivering a cutting-edge educational experience. The aspiration is to be at the forefront of innovation, creating a state-of-the-art educational environment for both teachers and students. Our goal was to break down communication barriers, deliver more flexibility, and find a solution to help our teachers and students innovate."



One regular complaint from teachers was the limited brightness and image and sound quality of the existing equipment, which made it difficult for some students to engage with educational content. The school began the search for a solution with rich functionality that would enable truly captivating learning experiences.

## Solution

Focusing the search on advanced interactive whiteboards, LIS evaluated more than four educational technology vendors and requested demonstration units to really put the systems through their paces. A standout offering soon emerged: Ricoh A8600 Interactive Whiteboards.

Stefan Kaudelka, Head of ICT at LIS, explains: "Over the years, we've looked at many whiteboards and talked to a lot of different manufacturers. When we decided to upgrade our classroom technology, we analysed features and looked at the whole product lifecycle, including maintenance-friendliness, integration with other solutions, and support quality. The Ricoh A8600 Interactive Whiteboard was the best package on offer, providing the perfect combination of performance, reliability, ease-of-use and highly competent support."



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Stefanie Amann, Principle at LIS



The Ricoh interactive whiteboards feature electrical height adjustment and ultra-responsive touch input, enabling a smooth experience for teachers and students. Powerful built-in speakers ensure clear audio throughout the whole classroom for multimedia and video content, and make separate speakers or soundbars unnecessary.

"The Ricoh interactive whiteboards are clearly designed with the classroom in mind," says Jocelyn Gamble. "They are very easy to use and very reliable. For example, the EShare app gives teachers wireless connectivity that lets them share their laptop or tablet screen on the whiteboard, without having to worry about setting up cables. And thanks to the simple user experience, it's also easy for teachers to explore and discover new features and capabilities to make the best use of the new whiteboards for their lessons."

LIS worked closely with Ricoh to deploy 21 Ricoh A8600 Interactive Whiteboards, including a mobile unit. To minimise the impact of the upgrade, Ricoh completed the installation quickly during school holidays.

Stefanie Amann, Primary Principal at LIS, says: "Ricoh set up the new interactive whiteboards within just two weeks. The Ricoh team did a brilliant job and when the students returned from their holidays, everything was clean and ready for the first lesson."

LIS was highly satisfied with the exceptional service and commitment from the Ricoh team. "Some vendors were quick to highlight the features but could not always demonstrate how they would actually work in the classroom," says Jocelyn Gamble. "The Ricoh team was always very knowledgeable and hands-on. For one feature, they even created an introduction video just for us to confirm that what we wanted would be possible."

## Benefits

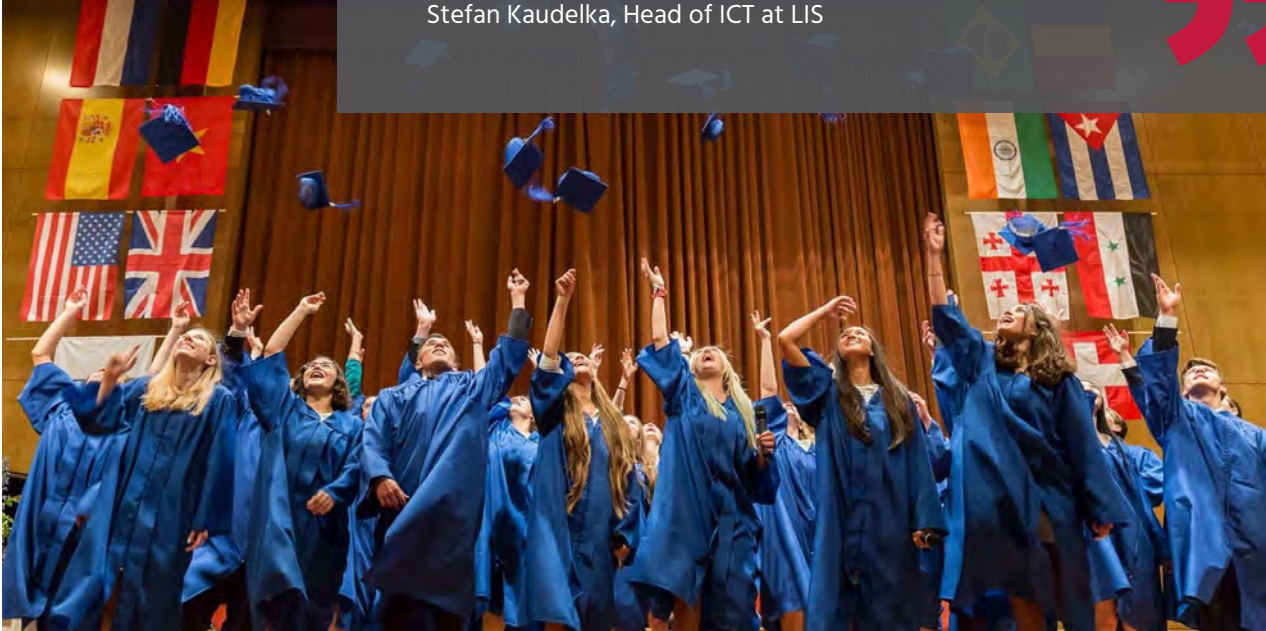
The Ricoh A8600 Interactive Whiteboards give the teachers at LIS many new exciting possibilities during lessons, as Jocelyn Gamble explains: "We've introduced new Apple iPad tablets for our teachers and students that enables them to move freely around the classroom while controlling the whiteboard using the EShare app or Apple AirPlay. This really affects how teachers structure their lessons and revolutionises how they interact with students."

He adds: "The Ricoh interactive whiteboards are true enablers for a modern, dynamic learning experience. For example, teachers can now easily create polls to get student feedback or set timer widgets when students perform tests or group tasks. Often it is the little things that make a big difference, such as being able to change the background of the whiteboard for different subjects and topics in an instant."



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Stefan Kaudelka, Head of ICT at LIS



Facilitating inclusion and accessibility are important at LIS and the new Ricoh interactive whiteboards have had a positive impact in these areas, too. "We want to break down barriers to learning and ensure every student feels engaged and participates fully in lessons," explains Stefanie Amann. "The whiteboard screens are sharp and easy-to-read even for students with visual impairments. And being able to have two or three students work on a single whiteboard at the same time increases engagement during lessons. In the primary school, being able to control what's on the whiteboard while sitting in a circle is another great benefit that aids group working."

Beyond everyday teaching, the new interactive whiteboards help LIS to make more efficient use of its space during events and staff meetings. "For larger meetings with parents we can show the same content across multiple whiteboards in different classrooms," says Jocelyn Gamble. "This is very handy when we cannot fit all attendees in a single room. The new whiteboards are also a great tool to support our strong media studies focus, as

we can use them to present completed projects, including high-quality video and audio elements."

In addition, LIS has installed an interactive whiteboard in the cafeteria, allowing the space to be used for meetings and lessons when needed.

"We are just getting started," confirms Stefanie Amann. "There is so much more potential for how the Ricoh interactive whiteboards can change the way our students learn. We're now working with our teachers to adjust and develop curriculums to take advantage of all the new possibilities."

Stefan Kaudelka concludes: "Throughout the entire process, we had great and honest conversations with Ricoh. The Ricoh team always provided excellent advice and delivered outstanding service. We're now planning to equip additional classrooms in our secondary school with new interactive whiteboards as well."

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## About Ricoh

Ricoh is a leading provider of integrated digital services and print and imaging solutions designed to support digital transformation of workplaces, workspaces and optimise business performance.

Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh's global operation reaches customers in approximately 200 countries and regions, supported by cultivated knowledge, technologies, and organisational capabilities nurtured over its 85-year history. In the financial year ended March 2023, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,134 billion yen (approx. 16.0 billion USD).

It is Ricoh's mission and vision to empower individuals to find Fulfillment through Work by understanding and transforming how people work so we can unleash their potential and creativity to realise a sustainable future.

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