

CREATIVE *Spark*

CASE STUDY

LIGHTING AND
SOUND UPGRADE

SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL IN HUNSTANTON APPROACHED US IN THE AUTUMN OF 2019 TO DISCUSS UPGRADING THE TECHNICAL SET-UP IN THEIR MAIN HALL. TRADITIONALLY THE SCHOOL HIRED LIGHTING AND SOUND EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR PRODUCTIONS, BUT THEY WERE LOOKING TO IMPROVE THEIR CURRENT INSTALLATION TO MAKE IT MORE SUITABLE. THE SOLUTION NEEDED TO BE COST EFFECTIVE, PROVIDE LONGEVITY AND BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO USE.

The Problem

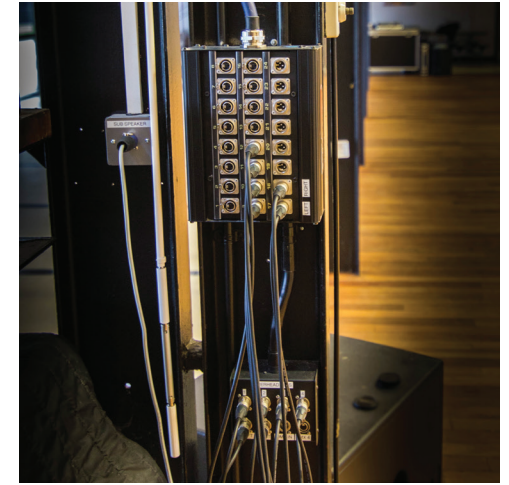
The main school hall at Smithdon High School is used daily for their 627 students, as a multi-purpose space it is also used for in-house school productions, with the next musical performance scheduled for February 2020. The existing infrastructure for the lighting had been partially removed, was very old, outdated and no longer worked. On the sound side, whilst the fundamental aspects were in place, the set up wasn't being used to its full potential and was in need of a "re-vamp" to get it to a workable state for larger productions. There was also a store cupboard housing some working but unused equipment suitable for future use.

Creative Spark's Solution

Following a site visit and discussions with the Director of Engagement for the West Norfolk Academies Trust we devised a plan to provide an upgraded system whilst utilising as much of the current equipment as possible. This enabled us to keep the costs down, as well as providing a system which was future proof, easy to operate and avoided lots of useable equipment being scrapped unnecessarily. The upgrade saw the replacement of the old lighting bars and associated electrical infrastructure along with the provision of a new state of the art lighting console and selection of modern intelligent LED lighting fixtures that would provide a multitude of options for shows, whilst being relatively



▲ Lighting Installation



▲ Sound Multicore and Tie Lines

maintenance free. We were able to use many of the school's workable components for the sound system, integrating the parts into a larger system and using all the materials they had available. The system was tuned to provide better sound quality and we installed some cabling to increase the audio connections between the stage and control position.

Time was of an essence with the looming musical production, so there was no room for error. The works needed to take place during February half term so as not to disrupt the school day. In less than seven days Creative Spark completed the following improvements:

- The three existing lighting bars were removed and replaced with new, including sockets with electrical distribution equipment and switching with master switch to control the whole lighting rig
- Installation of a DMX infrastructure for full control of the intelligent fixtures which also allowed for new lighting fixtures to be added later if needed
- The specification, provision and installation of intelligent lighting fixtures which included a combination of moving heads, LED spot and wash lights
- The specification, provision and training for a new state of the art lighting console

- Combination of the existing small sound system with a larger system using pre-used and new components
- Installation of a Multicore to enable multiple lines of microphone and audio signal between the stage and control position
- Installation of four overhead microphones (two of which were used from stock with two being new additions)
- PAT testing on all existing and new equipment providing full certification for 12 months
- Disposal of all old installation components
- Full training on all equipment and ongoing support if required

Benefits for our client

Smithdon High School now own their lighting and sound equipment which is fit for purpose and was a cost-effective solution for the school halls many uses. The new systems usability and diversity mean the space is fully set up for lighting and sound on a day-to-day basis as well as hosting in-house productions and concerts. Larger theatrical shows and productions may require additional specialist fixtures and components, but the system is set up in a way to easily allow these to be easily bolted on whenever required. With the use of previously unused components the school was able to save a lot of money plus recycle old stock.



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