



# NO LIMITS TO LEARNING WITH ULTRA FAST BROADBAND

**"Ultra fast broadband over fibre is a powerful tool, it allows schools to harness emerging technology in countless ways."**

Tim Harper, Teacher/IT Manager, Mount Aspiring College

Behind the Business



# MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE

## ENJOYS HIGH SPEEDS

**Thanks to new Ultra fast broadband solution from Spark.**

**A passionate and influencing driver of ICT in education, Mount Aspiring College teacher and IT manager Tim Harper says that once the Queenstown region was equipped with fibre he was keen to get his school connected.**

**"Streaming 240p on YouTube or limiting our Google Apps use is a thing of the past, we no longer have bottlenecks and students can consume knowledge quicker and learn faster. And with no monthly data cap we can consume all we require - it's currently at around 25GB per day."**

Tim Harper, Teacher/IT Manager, Mount Aspiring College

Mount Aspiring is the second most remote secondary school in New Zealand and it relies heavily on technology for learning, with PC's in most classrooms, music and graphic labs, and a BYOD policy.

"Our previous bandwidth was provided through Spark's SchoolZone service, it was over a copper connection and although it was working OK it would easily get constrained with around 800 students using dual ADSL connections," says Harper.

Being a remote school, email, website and video conferencing all play big parts as they connect the school with external people and learning opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

### **Who has the goods?**

When it came to choosing a provider who could supply ultra fast broadband over fibre, Harper said he shopped around.

"I considered Snap and CallPlus but it made sense to turn to Spark - not only did they have a national fibre network but they had a product that met our specific sector needs today and tomorrow, and which was priced fairly."

### **About Mount Aspiring College:**

- Established in 1986
- Roll of 710
- Nearest college 52km away
- Remotely located and relies heavily on ICT for learning

Mount Aspiring signed on to Spark's Internet Service Educational Plus and in just four short weeks it was enjoying ultra fast broadband and a high-speed connection.

Spark technical expert Ryan Joe says that Internet Service Educational Plus is a special variant of the Internet Service Plus product that is specially designed for schools, with slightly different access speeds, install times, and cost.

### **Consuming with speed**

For a monthly flat rate fee Internet Service Educational Plus is delivering the school close to 90Mbps in access speed in contrast to its previous download speed of 10Mbps, which Harper says is impressive given the schools remote location.



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We have plans to develop and make better use of both our online teacher and parent portals now that the school has ultra fast access in both directions," says Harper.

**Choosing Ultra fast broadband from Spark means choosing a people-centred solution that is simple, connected, flexible and secure.**

**If you're ready to create better connections for your customers, speak to your Client Manager or call us on:**



**0800 694 364**

### **Not as hard as you think**

Harper explains that schools may see moving to fibre as a bit of a challenge, things like getting the connection to work through your firewall or maintaining control can be worrying aspects.

"Internet Service Educational Plus in conjunction with our chosen firewall and filtering tool, pfSense, allows us to integrate with Active Directory so we can still manage things like student access to certain websites or configure our own firewall.

"Also it gives us a static IP public address range for our servers and video conferencing which allows a hassle-free connection with the outside world."

### **Endless opportunities**

With the imminent Network for Learning (N4L) due to transform education in the country, Harper says it is crucial schools start planning their journey to fibre.

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### **About Internet Service Educational Plus:**

- A high speed, symmetrical Internet access service
- Enabling access from client's internal IP networks to national and international services
- Delivers a single VLAN Flat rate service and speeds up to 90Mbps
- Is a great choice for schools who wish to migrate to the planned N4L as there will be no termination fee and assist with a smooth transition

Harper has set up a website to help other schools understand how Mount Aspiring College made the move to ultra fast broadband. Six other Central Otago schools have since moved to Internet Service Educational Plus.