Part of the **Guildford College Group**, the largest provider of general Further and Higher Education in Surrey, England, **Merrist Wood** is a 400-acre, multi-award winning College specialising in the land-based industries. The College is widely recognised by industry specialists for its training and for its many successes at RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. The College has a national and international reputation amongst employers and industry specialists and a long history of providing unrivalled education in its field.

Located in Worplesdon near Guildford, the College dates back as early as 1318. The indoor riding arena is one of the largest of any college in the country and they are the home of both the Chelsea FC Foundation Ladies and Mens Football Academy. A large, diverse animal management centre has both domestic and exotic animals. Other facilities include specially designed studios and workshops for floristry, garden design, horticulture and landscaping and access to an adjoining 18-hole golf course.

Students are able to choose from a range of courses from 1 day workshops and short courses, to diplomas and certificates, with progression right up to degree level. The college also offers a residential provision, recently graded as "outstanding" by Ofsted for students who live-in whilst studying.

As part of the development of the on-site residential accommodation, **Merrist Wood College** wanted to increase their general site security and also restrict access after-hours to specifically authorised vehicles. After researching the market, the College decided to order **RoadPixel's** proposed ANPR solution utilising their Bollard cameras to integrate and control the Bi-fold gates supplied and installed by Cova Security Gates Ltd.

RoadPixel installed two RoadWolf ANPR Bollards at the College's main site entrance / exit. The ANPR Bollard has integral always on IR illumination and contains both a mono plate capture camera along with a colour overview camera. This camera was recommended by **RoadPixel's** design engineers for best capture angle, aesthetic and anti-tamper considerations. The ruggedised mini ANPR processor / reader was located in a roadside cabinet running RPX-LIVE, **RoadPixel's** interactive Security and Access Control Application. The ANPR system's I/O controller was linked to the Bi-fold gates to open them for permitted vehicles. The College's admin staff can setup specific category or individual user rules for out of hours access when the gates are closed to general traffic.

Custom-named categories including staff, students, visitors and contractors can have different access periods. The ANPR system creates a 'virtual permit' to ensure that only authorised vehicles can gain access out of hours. Whilst staff and students can be given permanent or term-time access to the site, contractors carrying out a small works contract for example can be given a temporary 'virtual permit' for a pre set number of days.

The Security team have the ability to set real time alerts or alarms for any vehicles that they do not want entering or leaving site. System security notifications can be sent by email to multiple staff enabling them to deal with situations proactively.

RPX-LIVE is simple and easy to use and also allows the Security team to search the SQL-based event logfile by full or partial plate and time and date range providing a list of results with event details and associated images.

*Two **RoadWolf ANPR Bollards** were installed to log the details of any vehicles attemping to gain entry or exit the site out of hours.*

A College spokesperson commented "The safety of our students and staff is paramount here at the College and the ANPR system has provided us with a reliable and intelligent approach to our general site security concerns over undesirables driving onto the campus. The ANPR system also provides us with an easy to manage and administer vehicle access control solution. The system will help provide a safe and secure environment for all".

RPX-LIVE: Security staff can be alerted when an unknown vehicle attempts to access the college campus.

With thanks to:
Merrist Wood College - www.merristwood.ac.uk