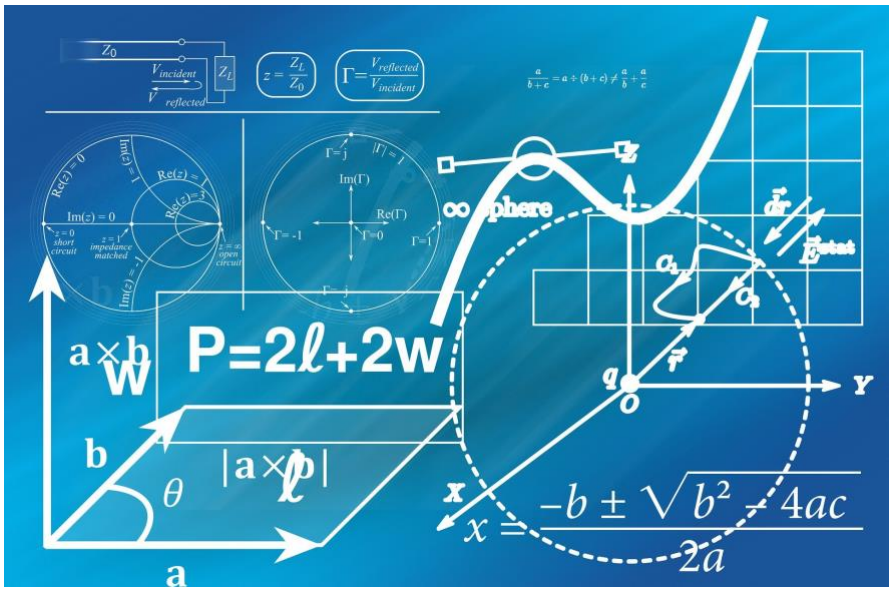


## Advances in Educational Technology

Education has always been one of the most evolving areas in technology and schools continue to try to find new methods of engaging with students.

This has been greatly accelerated by Covid-19 and the many months that young people have had to 'home school' or have limited space to develop and thrive when they have been able to return to the classroom. The past year has also given challenges to teaching staff and bought a whole new focus on what, often with limited budget, educational institutes need to invest in, in order to ensure they will be able to deliver education effectively whatever global developments there are in the future.

At TOA, we have always advocated that schools need to be safe as a priority. However, the need to communicate swiftly and precisely, with the ability to multi message to zoned areas and to offer extensive remote maintenance access, will certainly add to this priority.

We see more and more that 'lockdown' for schools to anyone not part of their immediate team will be the new normal. Systems that have the flexibility to be operated remotely, especially when the students are in situ, will become popular. The operating of schools is becoming more of a business with many becoming part of a group and changing to independent or academy status. Senior Management Team members have less of a teaching role and are more CEO & Facilities Management and the buying power of these

teams has increased significantly across the multiple sites they manage, often having an Executive Head managing more than one facility. Shared facilities are the new norm so buyers will increasingly look at one stop multi-function solutions that are easy to install and operate. It will also be extremely important that these systems can be maintained and accessed remotely by engineers to lessen the impact on the school day and reduce in-person visits to site.

So, as manufacturers and installers, how do we address this shift in the traditional profile of a school?

Schools have often been in the lead for visual technology when it comes to interaction. Only a certain generation remembers real blackboards and chalk with whiteboard technology and software being at the forefront of visual teaching but investment in sound technology may have been slower to the table.

So, what are the key areas an educational establishment should look at in terms of sound and safety.

**Sound**
Social distancing has increased the need to have better options and clearer directional sound systems than ever before. The need to deliver both in person and as remote collaboration on a completely flexible basis has become so important to meet the challenges of possible instant isolation or lockdown.

Installing an audio collaboration system, such as the TOA AM-CF1 with its original beam forming array microphone technology, allows the delivery of lessons to be highly productive. The array microphone which collects sound by detecting and tracking the speaker's voice allows a clear conversation even if you are apart.

Imagine having the ability to not only deliver lessons within a safe distance in your room or lecture hall but also being able to link to other classrooms or enable remote working whilst feeling that you are still in the same room as your participants.

The integrated array microphones automatically focus on the speaker allowing natural conversation in web conferencing whilst the soundbar, with two active 2 way speakers, means everyone can be heard loud and clear.


To find out more click **here**

**Security**
One of the most important things working within educational Institutes is to ensure we don't press the "student panic button' in the event of an emergency situation and that staff are able to use the equipment with ease and effectiveness, in the event of an emergency, with simple operation.

TOA's VX-3000 integrated voice alarm and public address system is the ideal solution for schools. Certified to European Standard EN54-16 it is a reliable and energy saving system that combines many functions for both VA/PA in one unit.

The flexibility and scalability of the system architecture can be used for both small and large applications, with up to 1280 remote microphones, 640 audio sources and 2560 speaker lines.

The automatic emergency announcements (pre-recorded messages) can be arranged in three phases, for example, broadcasting a hidden message first, then a warning and at the end an evacuation message. A simultaneous broadcast of warning and evacuation messages is also possible and can be initiated by a single activation. The two remote microphone models can be set for normal, emergency and both modes with a different setting for the talk button (implemented zone selection or not, PPT or lock mode). In emergency mode, emergency messages can manually be assigned to broadcast areas. Built-in chimes or individually recorded chimes or tones can be set before and after paging, and different ones for normal and emergency broadcasts.

To find out about how our products work in schools and higher education institutes and to view a 3D version of the VX-3000 series click **here**