New College Durham: “DDoS protection helps me sleep at night”

In 2018 New College Durham signed up for Jisc’s critical services protection to combat the threat of DDoS attacks. We know recently there has been an increase in cyber attacks, particularly in the education sector, spurred on by the pandemic. However, this college has been ahead of the curve and invested in keeping its staff, learners and institution safe with their proactive approach.

For senior leaders, it’s becoming part of the central policy to protect your organisation against cyber attacks. In addition, preventing disruption to services due to the impact of an attack on an organisation's reputation and finances has become paramount.

“It’s common sense for a college to employ this kind of protection in these uncertain times”, says Neil McLoughlin, head of IT at New College Durham.

The Jisc cyber security team and the college went through the options together, balancing the college’s technical needs, risk, and budget. With Jisc’s guidance, they opted to protect several business-critical services. Critical services protection offers out-of-hours coverage and customisable protection of your externally facing services with fast DDoS mitigation response times, including the choice of permanent mitigation, an added layer of protection.

“It’s flexible and can work across multiple services, great value for money for further education’s restricted budgets and certainly helps me sleep at night”, Neil explains.

New College Durham sees cyber security as an integral part of their defence strategy and doesn’t question whether they should renew or not, Neil sees this service as a ‘no brainer’. Having access to the Jisc cyber security portal has many benefits too.

“You can see when you have been targeted and generate reports with statistics. Being able to demonstrate to the business what you are protecting is useful for funding and budgets”, says Neil.