

Driving classroom innovation with AI-powered devices

Francis Holland Schools Trust partnered with Lenovo and Intel to explore how AI-enabled devices can transform teaching and learning.

Through a targeted pilot, selected teachers received the **Lenovo ThinkPad X9 Aura edition AI PC** and engaged in training aligned to **Intel's Skills for Innovation (SFI)** programme.

The initiative aimed to **reduce workload**, **increase innovation**, and **build teacher confidence** using AI in purposeful, classroom-ready ways.

Early results show **stronger instructional practice**, more **efficient workflows**, and a **growing culture of experimentation** with emerging technologies.

ThinkPad X9 Aura edition

Exploring the benefits of AIPCs in education and how AI can reduce teacher workload.

Intel Skills for Innovation

Learning resources and professional development content designed to support innovation in the classroom.

Lenovo

“With the X9, we have AI built within the device, which our teaching and support staff can use to develop lesson plans and resources, making our lives much easier.”

Matt Britland, Director of Technology



Intel Skills for Innovation

A growing library of professional development content and ready-made learning resources is freely available to Lenovo customers, helping schools embed innovation at scale.

The challenge

Reducing workload and increasing innovation in a demanding environment.

- **Teachers** face daily pressure to plan, prepare, assess, and meet diverse student needs while keeping pace with rapidly evolving technology.
- The school sought to understand how **AI-powered devices** could reduce workload and help teachers reinvest time where it matters most—supporting students.
- **Leadership** wanted to explore how AI-driven tools and resources could **modernise classroom practice** and prepare students for the workplace of the future to help inform their digital strategy and to model best practice.

The solution

AI-enabled devices paired with robust professional development.

- Lenovo worked with the school's IT team to deploy the **ThinkPad X9 Aura edition AI PCs**.
- Teachers then engaged in hands-on professional development based on Intel SFI Levels 1 and 2, building practical capability in using AI **purposefully, ethically, and effectively**.
- Teachers explored and adopted Intel SFI starter pack lessons, adapting resources to fit the **needs of their learners**.

Lenovo hardware and software

Hardware:

- Lenovo ThinkPad X9 Aura edition powered by Intel's Core Ultra Processor

Software:

- Intel Skills for Innovation curriculum resources and on-demand professional development



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One of the most crucial things about bringing tech into the classroom is that it's reliable. Every moment you lose in the classroom because of tech is a moment you and the students won't get back.”

Carrie MacTavish

Head of Physics and Director of Digital Learning



Francis Holland Schools Trust is now recognised as an Intel Skills for Innovation Certified School.



Francis Holland Schools Trust is deploying Lenovo devices for all students.



The outcome

Stronger skills, streamlined workflows, and a culture of innovation.

- **Teachers developed real confidence using AI-enabled tools.** Through hands-on use of the ThinkPad X9 Aura edition and Intel SFI professional development, staff built practical skills that helped them plan lessons, create resources, and personalise learning more efficiently.
- **Teachers saved valuable time they could reinvest in students.** By reducing time spent on administrative and planning tasks, teachers were able to prioritise meaningful, high-impact classroom interactions.
- **Classrooms became more innovative and future-focused.** Intel SFI starter pack lessons gave teachers new ways to introduce creative thinking, problem-solving, and real-world skills into the curriculum.
- **Teachers are more motivated to explore emerging technology.** The pilot sparked curiosity and engagement, encouraging staff and learners to embrace AI not just as a tool, but as a pathway to deeper learning and creativity.
- **Recognition as an Intel Skills for Innovation Certified School.** Achieving this status enables Francis Holland Schools Trust to showcase their progress, share their experiences with the wider sector, and strengthen partnerships with industry.



Want to know more?

Get in touch with your Lenovo rep.