



# Barton Peveril migrates to Google Cloud

to improve student experience and support AI journey

**GBP 140,000 saved**

in staff resources over five years  
for key student-facing services

**350 hours saved annually**

through managed services supports

**10% cost savings**

on operations and infrastructure

## Client

Barton Peveril Sixth Form College

## Industry

Education

## Platform

Google Cloud

## Services

Cloud Services

## Country

United Kingdom

Barton Peveril Sixth Form College migrated from on-premises to Google Cloud with SoftwareOne to deliver on its cloud vision and to avoid a 500% increase in licensing costs. The migration gave it a scalable platform for key services like Google Workspace and Google Classroom, saved costs, improved sustainability, and elevated the student experience.



SoftwareOne instilled a huge confidence. They had the intellectual and technical capabilities and capacity to handle the migration, and to do it well and quickly. That was the promise they sold and that was absolutely what they delivered.

Chris Loveday, Vice Principal,  
Barton Peveril Sixth Form College



Barton Peveril  
Sixth Form College



## The challenge

When Barton Peveril committed to a migration of all its on-premises infrastructure and services to Google Cloud, it needed to be up and running within a nine-month period. With its existing licenses coming up for renewal during that timeframe, it needed to be all-in on Google Cloud before the expiry date.

For Loveday, the logic of migrating to Google Cloud was clear and obvious. “The Google name buys something, there’s an assurance that comes with it,” he says. “You know it’s cooperative, resilient, robust, and secure. We did our due diligence on alternative cloud providers, but having a connected ecosystem from the same provider will improve efficiency and the ability to operate within the domain.”

Educational organizations rely on a complex estate of applications and systems to deliver services and systems, and the links between these need to be identified. A key early activity for the project team was data flow mapping to ensure that when systems were migrated, no interdependencies between them were broken. The planning process began.



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## The solution

The college has a lean IT team, so it needed an IT partner that could help plan, then execute, the migration on its behalf. The college explained its systems, objectives, and priorities, before handing the reins to SoftwareOne. With the planning and technical decisions made, the team had around four months left to migrate the college's entire digital infrastructure to Google Cloud.

Through SoftwareOne, the college used the [Open Clouds for Research Environments \(OCRE\)](#) procurement framework to simplify the onboarding process with Google Cloud. OCRE provides access for academic and research institutions across Europe and connects them with pre-approved providers offering cost-effective cloud pricing. SoftwareOne is a leading Google Cloud partner in 16 countries on the OCRE framework, supporting academic and research institutions in more than 35 European countries.

The college wanted an infrastructure and ecosystem that complemented and enhanced its existing Google Cloud services and tools. Crucially, AI agents that the college had built using the unified Vertex AI platform needed to be factored in.

These agents provided valuable information services for students and staff. Although that initiative had started the year prior to the migration, being native on Google Cloud meant that everything was starting to converge into one ecosystem, giving the college AI team a roadmap for future development and improved security guardrails.

The project team migrated less-critical systems during term time with the key systems moved over to Google Cloud during the summer holidays. Despite the challenging deadline, the college's entire infrastructure was migrated a few days ahead of schedule with no operational downtime or inefficiencies.

In addition to the migration, the college signed up for a five-year managed services arrangement with SoftwareOne to manage its infrastructure. Under the contract, the college can get additional support during peak times, such as September, and the college staff can focus on supporting student services rather than on managing cloud infrastructure.



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## The outcome

Barton Peveril is now all-in on Google Cloud and has calculated that using Google Cloud services on a scalable infrastructure managed by SoftwareOne has saved around 350 hours per year for critical tasks like student onboarding and examination results day and saved around GBP 140,000 over the length of the five-year contract. As a result of the competitive rates offered by the OCRE framework, the college was able to save over 10% in operational costs for its new infrastructure.

Instead of having to pay for an always-on, on-premises system, the college now only pays for what it uses when it uses it, which is particularly useful because of holidays and term breaks. Being all-in as a Google Cloud tenant means that the college's proprietary Barton Buddy and Barton AI agents are secure with enhanced guardrails for students, including tools that monitor queries to support pastoral care.

Another positive outcome from the partnership has been the creation of a Google Workspace-branded study space. Students love having a Google Workspace-branded facility, and it has become one of the most popular spaces on campus. As part of the ongoing relationship, representatives from both Google Cloud and SoftwareOne will give talks in the space to share their own tech journeys with students.

As the next step in its journey on Google Cloud, and in collaboration with SoftwareOne, the college is exploring the adoption of the Google Cloud's BigQuery serverless data warehouse to host all its data for analytics. College teams are investigating data visualization platforms like Looker and using natural language queries powered by Gemini. This will enable the college to proactively make better decisions about the education and welfare of its staff and students.

## CONTACT US TODAY

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