

GCSEs in Action



vision2learn for **schools** at
Carshalton Boys Sports College

Carshalton test drive new GCSEs

Teachers at Carshalton Boys Sports College in Surrey have been some of the first in the country to trial our new vision2learn for **schools** online GCSE resources. Their first impressions were overwhelmingly positive, and the team has some exciting plans for the new e-learning suite for the 2013/14 academic year.

Jenny Gaylor, Deputy Head at Carshalton Boys, was part of the group that received a full demonstration of the new GCSEs. She said: “We are really excited about the opportunities vision2learn for **schools**’ new GCSE resources provide.

“We really like the vision2learn approach because it enables the learner to build their confidence. These are learners that aren’t necessarily used to doing well in a traditional framework.”

GCSEs for all ability levels

The suite of resources includes GCSE Statistics, IGCSE First Language English, GCSE Leisure and Tourism, GCSE Religious Studies and GCSE Child Development online resources.

Jenny and her colleagues were particularly interested in finding out how the online resources

could help learners of differing ability levels achieve successful outcomes in exams and controlled assessments.

She said: “Although vision2learn materials are suitable for all users, I think that these materials really provide hard-to-reach learners with something that is engaging, motivating and crucially provides a flexible approach.

“We have a young man in Year 10 who is going to be a father in the next six months. We have been able to put him on the Child Development GCSE programme. This will allow him to gain a qualification that will enable him to think about the next steps beyond the birth of the child.”

Bright new features

All three vision2learn for **schools** online GCSE resources are designed to engage the senses and help visual learners absorb information faster. Clear study goals and motivation tips are used to help students get ready to learn alongside keyword spelling and sound files to help with SPaG (spelling and grammar).

Short, readable text is used throughout to help learners grasp GCSE concepts quickly and break down sometimes complex subject matter within easy-to-manage sessions. The Religious Studies GCSE resource, which is mapped closely to OCR Religious Studies B GCSE, is a good example of this.

Progress tracking features within the new vision2learn for **schools** GCSE resources also help to pinpoint areas for improvement with a laser-sharp focus – backed up with exam and assessment activities and comprehensive teacher resources.

Jenny said: “There are really good planning, progress and tracking tools that enable both the learner and their teachers to be able to spot areas of weakness and strengths, and tailor what they do next to the specific needs of the student.”

“ Appropriate and accessible ”

The new GCSE resources have been developed in collaboration with school leaders and expert teaching professionals. Jenny said: “There is a huge range of GCSEs out there. We find it a real challenge to identify those that are the most appropriate and accessible for our low-attaining learners. Vision2learn has done that work for us.

“The GCSE resources have been identified specifically either for the way in which they are assessed or their really clear progression routes onto relevant programmes of post-16 study. They are options that are very relevant for our young people.”

Simon Barber, Headteacher of Carshalton School for Boys, adds: “The team at vision2learn for **schools** have worked very hard at presenting new academic GCSEs suitable for kids who find it hard to access the current curriculum. They have been very good at working with schools in synthesising policies to support an appropriate curriculum for schools.”

Carshalton Boys Sports College

This single sex school of 1,186 11–18 year old pupils is based in Carshalton, Surrey.

The team there has been working with vision2learn for **schools** since 2009. During this time over 220 pupils have enrolled on vision2learn for **schools** online courses.

Results at KS4 and KS5 have rapidly improved year-on-year and is expected to exceed the national average in 2013.

Contact us

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