

# GCSEs in Action



## GCSE opportunities to help hard-to-reach learners

Over 50 schools are now using the new vision2learn for **schools** Child Development GCSE online resource. At York High School, Lead Child Development Teacher Jenni Rawlinson and her colleagues are using it to guide hard-to-reach learners towards successful outcomes in their exams and controlled assessments.

### Raising attainment through e-learning

The new suite of vision2learn for schools GCSE online resources also includes GCSE Statistics, IGCSE First Language English, Leisure and Tourism and Religious Studies. Using the innovative approaches traditionally applied to vocational learning courses, we have created each resource with a clear focus on engagement, encouragement and interaction.

Jenni has already found success using our Child Development GCSE to teach vulnerable groups of learners as a double or triple option block so that her pupils can immerse themselves in the topics for a morning or afternoon each week.

Jenni said: “Learners who were predicted to get a D/E grade are now on target for a C. We’ve seen improved attendance, much better behaviour and a ‘ready to learn’ attitude since we introduced vision2learn to learners when they were in Year 9. The whole group also study Nutrition and Health using the online resources available on vision2learn, along with their other core subjects in school.”

### A bright and bold approach to GCSEs

All three vision2learn for **schools** online GCSE resources are designed to engage the senses and help visual learners learn 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). Stylistically, short, readable text is employed throughout to help learners grasp GCSE concepts quickly.

Jenni said: “The new vision2learn GCSE learning environment is strikingly vibrant. My learners find the bold colours, engaging information and useful study tools really motivating. It is all set out in the same way I teach it, following the course specification, which is very helpful. It’s got lots of great learning tools. ‘On the web!’ and ‘Read all about it!’ are amazing for research projects and the child study, while the ‘Time to think’ journal feature is ideal for cover lessons and work at home.”



vision2learn for **schools**  
at York High School

## Extra support for teachers

Progress tracking features within the new vision2learn for **schools** GCSE resources help teachers pinpoint areas for improvement with a laser-sharp focus.

Jenni explains: “In terms of personalised lesson planning, revision and plenary sessions, the ‘Your progress’ tools are great too. I’m very impressed with what I have seen.”

Like other vision2learn for **schools** courses and resources, the GCSE materials are designed to encourage self-assessment and make getting a quick response from tutors easier.

Siobhan Moore, KS4 Inclusion Manager, said: “Pupils like the quick response they get. It all helps them take ownership of their work and progress. The skills they develop completing the courses are very good for the post-16 work they’ll be doing when they leave here, whether they go to college or straight into employment.”

“ We’ve tracked a marked impact on other areas of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. ”

Gavin Cowley, Deputy Head teacher at York High School, is a strong advocate for vision2learn for **schools**.

He said: “We’ve seen clear evidence these programmes are raising aspirations, often among hard-to-reach students. We’ve tracked a marked impact on other areas of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

“The fact that pupils can make progress at their own pace, in their own time gives the course a real flexibility. The materials are enjoyable to use, and the techniques needed are of course very familiar to this age group.

“For some students, it might be the one school activity where they can demonstrate success – it’s a real confidence-booster.”

## York High School

This mixed school of 780 11–16 year old pupils is based in the York suburb of Acomb.

The team there has been working with vision2learn for **schools** since 2010, during which time over 600 pupils have enrolled on our online courses.

The school has specialist status in sport and in December 2011 it was awarded the Youth Sport Trust Gold Partner status.

## Contact us

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