

GCSEs in Action



Balancing ambitions through online learning

vision2learn for **schools** at Coombe Boys' School

Coombe Boys' School has enjoyed a successful learning partnership with Premier League football team Fulham for over five years. Now, e-learning service vision2learn for **schools** is helping the latest group of Year 10 and 11 learners to balance their sporting achievements with academic study online at GCSE level.

Fulham Academy pupils attending Coombe sometimes find that their goal of a lucrative football career makes it harder for them to concentrate on their studies, and they may miss classes while they train. This is where vision2learn for **schools** is making a difference by helping the school to deliver GCSE courses online.

Glen Hayes, Leisure and Tourism Teacher at the school, is currently teaching three GCSE groups of Year 10 and 11 Academy pupils. All groups are studying on the new vision2learn for **schools** online GCSE Leisure and Tourism (2LT01) Single Award, accredited by Edexcel.

Launched in September 2012, it is a comprehensive online course that guides learners through the GCSE content and helps them to prepare for their exam and controlled assessment.

www.vision2learnforschools.com

Glen explains how his pupils are finding it so far: "The Academy pupils at Coombe Boys' School have a huge challenge to balance their dreams of becoming a professional footballer with academic pressures. It's so easy for them to get side-tracked and lose focus and they may miss scheduled GCSE classes while they are at training sessions.

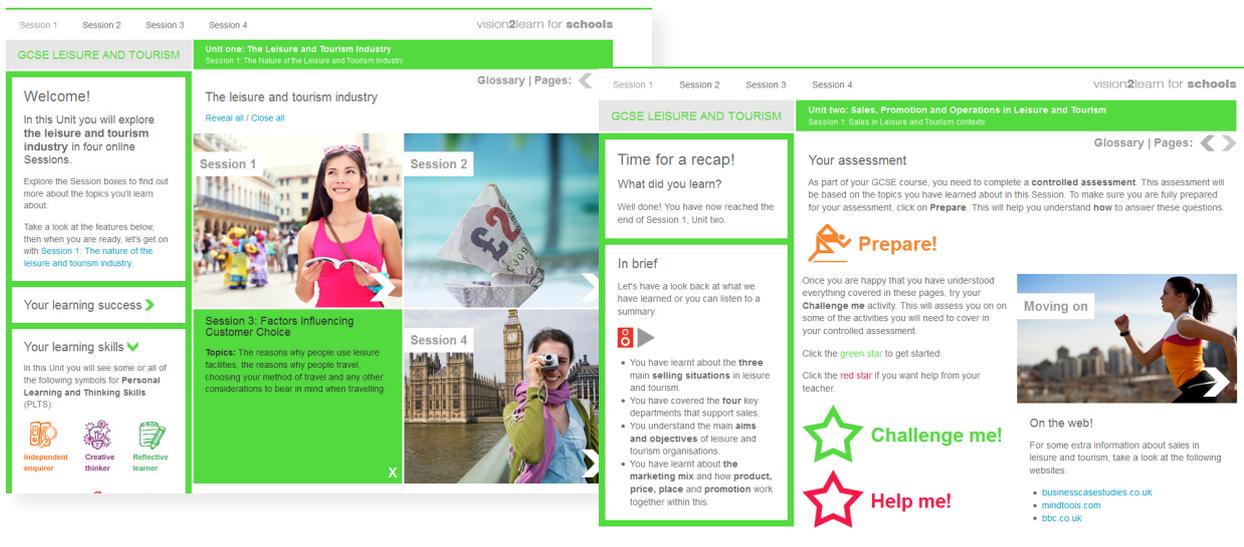
"However, this online course is really engaging them. One group is happy to work independently during our sessions; while another group has been inspired by the online content to take part in some lively class discussions."

Innovative approach to GCSEs

Over the course of this academic year the groups have worked their way through a variety of topics, including how to influence customer choice, business operations within the tourism industry and sustainability issues.

Glen said: "I think they are making good progress because they can relate to the subject matter. And, of course, working online is something that they are very used to.

From my perspective, vision2learn gives me confidence that I can turn up for each session safe in the knowledge that my pupils can just log-on and pick up where they left off."



All courses in the new vision2learn for **schools** GCSE suite – which also includes GCSE Statistics, IGCSE English, GCSE Religious Studies B (Philosophy and/or Applied Ethics) and GCSE Child Development – have been designed to actively engage learners and help them to grasp GCSE concepts quickly. These resources will soon be joined by iGCSE English, which is in development now.

Using the innovative approaches traditionally applied across all vision2learn for **schools** vocational learning courses, this new GCSE suite has been created with a clear focus on engagement, encouragement and interaction. 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).

“Balanced and personalised curriculum”

Suzanne Dwyer, Senior Deputy Headteacher at Coombe Boys’ School, said: “Flexible online study with vision2learn is helping us to deliver a balanced and personalised curriculum to our Academy pupils.

“Their involvement with Fulham Football Club means that, although they have been granted a fantastic opportunity, it’s important that they don’t miss out on their GCSE lessons too.

Because vision2learn for **schools** courses are online it offers us and them the flexibility to gain useful qualifications while they pursue a career in football.”

Glen said: “Platforms like vision2learn provide this group of pupils with a viable and achievable Plan B, which many of them are now recognising as important. Studying for Leisure and Tourism is an opportunity to gain a valuable GCSE, which could improve their career expectations if the dream of football does not become a reality.”

Coombe Boys’ School

This academy school of 712 11–16 year old boys is based in the Surrey town of New Malden.

The team there has been working with vision2learn for schools since 2008, during which time over 600 pupils have enrolled on our online courses.

In 2008 Coombe Boys’ gained specialist status for maths and computing, and in 2010 it won recognition from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust as a ‘most improved school’.

Contact us

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