

**Educake Case Study**  
**The Bishop David Brown School**  
**Woking, Surrey**





## Educake Case Study: The Bishop David Brown School, Woking, Surrey

We talked to a mixed comprehensive school in Woking about their experience of using Educake for the first couple of months.

### Background

The Bishop David Brown School is an 11-16 mixed school with about 600 students, 10% of which are on free school meals, and 27% of which are Pupil Premium. The school was rated as good in their latest OFSTED inspection in April 2014, and they attained a below average Progress 8 score of -0.43.

We talked to Daniel West, Second in charge of Science, and began by asking why they started using Educake:

### Why did you start using Educake?

**Dan:** It was recommended to us by a colleague at another school. I think our department felt overwhelmed by the amount of homework we needed to set and the marking load, so we probably didn't set enough. With Educake it's very easy to set ten or twenty questions on a topic. You can do it in a really short time and it's marked instantly and a report is generated automatically too. That's a dream.

Without Educake it took hours on end for a teacher to do all their marking and the analysis,

but the system can do it in a matter of seconds.

### What's your impression of Educake after the first few months?

It is extremely user friendly. It's very, very easy to understand. For example, the simplicity of adding a student, or changing a password: it's all done at a few clicks of a button. Everything is simple. Moving a student into new class is simple.

Teachers like things done for them and Educake is as close to that as possible, for homework. I love the fact that when I've set a test, such as for year 9, I can see the progress in real time. I can view individual answers appearing as the questions are answered.

The students have answered 60,000 questions in the first few months.

### How did you get started?

I looked at the free trial, set it up and then ran through the demo. I uploaded a few students to see it in practice, and only needed to see one student using it and the report to say, "Yes!".

It's tailored to the specification you teach so it's a no-brainer.

### How do you get teachers started?

We just copied and pasted the teacher registration web link into an email and sent it to our staff. They click, sign up and get going. We can see who has not logged in, in case we need to give someone a nudge.

### What are you using Educake for?

Homework mainly at first. It's now our main source of regular homework. But now we're encouraging students to use it for revision. It

shows them their weakest topics, so they can then set themselves tests.

### Do teachers like Educake?

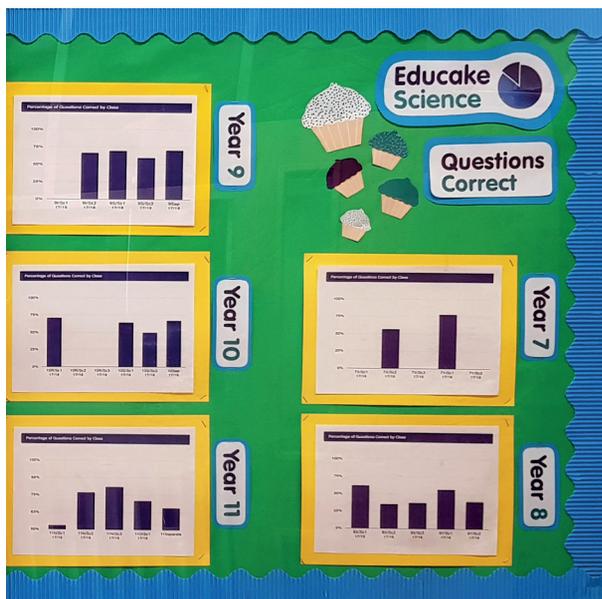
Yes. The response has been very positive from teachers. They keep on saying how simple it is to use and how quick it is. It's easy to get feedback to students. And the Head of Science loves it! It's an easy solution to homework.

Also, we put a lot of effort into pupil premium students and this is another way of adding additional intervention and tracking for these students.

### What about the students?

They love it. Absolutely love it! The more we big it up, the more they big it up. I printed out graphs comparing classes that Educake creates for us and put them up outside the science labs and the students hover around them. They love the competitiveness and want to know where their class is on the graphs and to beat other classes.

### Wall display of Educake charts



The less able students like Educake because they can type the answers, when they might not have been able to write them.

In particular there is a year 7 student who is quiet, but very competitive. She saw the leaderboards and wanted to be at the top of them. Two days later she'd set herself over 1,200 questions on Educake, getting 93% correct, just so she could be top of the leaderboards.

Then I can tell the year 11 students that they've been beaten by someone from year 7 and that gets them going too. One year 11 student uses Educake to focus on her weaker areas that it identifies.

### Has there been feedback from parents?

They're supportive of the program and impressed too. At the last parents evening for year 8, we had an Educake display. It was a good opportunity to share it with them and answer any questions.

The automatic student reports are useful for parents evenings. I can click on any student and show the parents a report on their performance, and their weakest topics, which is an easy way to focus them.

### How does Educake compare to other online packages?

I've really only used one other revision and homework system. It was okay but Educake is much easier to understand and use. It's the little things, like the colours and the font used, the limited amount there is on a page. It's very visual and easy to understand, with lovely diagrams, such as the one on the states of matter.

The students found the other system difficult to read and use. I also found that the questions didn't fit the course as well. They were too long-winded, so it took minutes to read just for a simple answer. To be honest, it needed a pen and paper just to read the question.

## How would you describe Educake to another teacher?

It solves a lot of problems very very easily.

It's a science specific online platform that allows us as teachers to set specific questions that students can answer when and where they wish, all auto-marked and with auto-produced feedback.

As soon as you see the feedback reports you know you need to have a look at it.

Educake's cost is very reasonable. It's £480 a year and we have 525 students so that's less than a pound per student, money well spent so far.

It's a "must get" really. If I went to another school I'd definitely buy it.

## Anything else?

We just had a snow day, so we just set some classes tests on Educake and told them to go on it. Off they went. They answered over two thousand questions on that day alone!

Dan West was speaking to Charley Darbshire, founder of Educake, in March 2018.



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