

Educake Case Study

Radley College

Oxfordshire





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Background

Radley College is a boys' independent boarding school in Oxfordshire for ages 13 to 18. There are around 700 pupils in total. Pupils at Radley College have answered hundreds of thousands of questions on Educake since starting using the system in 2015.

Radley College is a high-achieving school. In 2016, 60% of pupils achieved 3 A-levels at grades AAB or higher, compared to 15% for the average of all schools in England.

We talked to Paul Fernandez, teacher of Biology, and began by asking why Radley College started using Educake:

Why did you start using Educake?

Paul: I saw an advert in one of the teaching magazines (I think it was from the Association of Science Education) and it looked like a good thing to try out. We signed up and have been very happy with the product.

How did you get your students started with Educake?

It was easy. We just sorted out usernames and passwords, gave these to the students and

then told them to search for 'Educake'. In some cases we sent a web link, but this was not really necessary. They logged in and got started, it was that simple.

How did you get other teachers to use Educake?

Again it was not hard. We discussed it at a department meeting and then started a free trial. Other teachers quickly saw the benefits of the product (graded questions sorted by topic, instant feedback for the students, ability for students to ask why their answer was incorrect, ability to give feedback, reduction in paper, less time used in the mechanism of marking, leaving more for feedback, summary of where the class struggled allowing more directed feedback to the set, etc).

What do you use Educake for?

Homeworks mostly. I also use it for 'early stage' revision – when just building up knowledge and getting the basic facts assimilated is needed. We don't use it for classwork yet.

Has there been any change in the students?

As well as with PCs and tablets, students can do this with their phones whenever they have wifi/data, so they do not have to be set down with several sheets of paper. They have been able to ask questions that they would have otherwise forgotten before the next lesson. They like seeing the results sheet with everyone else's results on them.

What has the response been from teachers at your school?

Found it very easy to use and useful. Some have used the 'comparison' information to compare different teachers and their students – number of correct answers, number of completed tests, etc.

What changes have you noticed since you started using Educake?

Marking load has decreased significantly. With less time spent on the actual marking, it has left more time for addressing any issues highlighted by the incorrect answers.

Students are getting more valuable feedback – it is instant, specific to them, and no wasted time going over the 'easy questions', more time on the more difficult ones.

What's the IT setup like in your school?

Decent. However, most students use Educake on their own devices, (phones, tablets or own computers). This means they can do it at any time.

How does Educake compare to other online resources you've used?

We have tried many resources, Educake is by far the best and therefore most used.

What's your overall impression of Educake so far?

Excellent.

Finally, is there anything else about Educake you'd like to mention?

I would like to see some A-Level tests – these could just be the 'basics' of all the exam boards, there is a lot of overlap.

Paul Fernandez was speaking to Charley Darbshire, founder of Educake, in February 2017.

Educake

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