

Educake Case Study
Allerton High School
Leeds





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Background

Allerton High School is an 11-18 mixed suburban comprehensive maintained school, with about 1280 students. The school was rated as good in their most recent OFSTED report in September 2013. It is a high-achieving school, with 84% of students achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs in 2016 and a Progress 8 score of +0.47. Deprivation is below average, with 25% of students on Pupil Premium.

Students at Allerton High School have answered more than three hundred thousand questions on Educake.

We talked to Jonathan Allcock, Assistant Team Leader of Science, and began by asking why Allerton High School started using Educake:

Why did you start using Educake?

Jonathan: We wanted an efficient formative assessment method that supported both students and staff. That Educake is online makes it very versatile, as we can set tests for use both in class and for homework. We wanted something that easily allows our students to check their understanding and is quick to use for our teachers. We liked that about Educake, and there is the added benefit of diagnostic tools

that allow students and teachers to see areas of strength and weakness.

How did you get your students started with Educake?

Due to the simple design of Educake there was very little training required to get our students using the website.

How did you get other teachers to use Educake?

Brief staff training was all that was required. Staff could immediately see the benefits of Educake and quickly integrated it into their other assessment methods.

What do you use Educake for?

We use it for recap and revision activities both in class and for homework. We have also used it to administer end of topic tests.

Has there been any change in the students?

Most students enjoy using Educake and gain satisfaction from seeing the progress they are making. They also appreciate the feedback they get on the topics that they still need to work on. Our students want to do well and they like Educake as it is easy to use and helps them develop.

What has the response been from teachers at your school?

Our teachers like Educake for its ease of use and its comprehensive coverage of the KS3 and 4 programmes of study. We have subscribed

to Educake for a long time and our teachers appreciate the continuous improvements that are made to simplify its use and make it more effective.

What changes have you noticed since you started using Educake?

Teacher workload has been reduced, as Educake removes the need to mark some homework activities. Educake also makes it easier for staff to identify areas of weakness and therefore focus intervention effectively.

What's the IT setup like in your school?

In the Science department we have 4 trollies with 16 laptops and a trolley of 30 iPads which we can book. If these are unavailable then we can book IT from other areas of the school.

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

We feel that it's a valuable resource worth paying for. We use several free online assessment resources like Kahoot and Quizlet, which we really like, but Educake complements these well and the online tracking, self-assessment and diagnostic elements make it worth the money.

What's your overall impression of Educake so far?

Over time, as it has evolved and developed, Educake has become a valuable assessment tool that both students and staff appreciate. We like that it engages students with their progress and clearly signposts the areas that they still need to work on.

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

We have always appreciated Educake's fantastic customer support. They act quickly on feedback and are very keen to ensure their product is serving schools as best as it can. Keep up the good work.

Jonathan Allcock was speaking to Charley Darbshire, founder of Educake, in February 2017.

Educake

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