

Educake English Case Study
Weston Road Academy,
Stafford





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We talked to a mixed secondary academy about their experience of using Educake in their English department.

Background

Weston Road Academy is an 11-18 non-selective secondary academy with about 900 students, 14% of which have been eligible for school meals at any time during the last 6 years, below the national average of 29%. The school was rated as good in their latest OFSTED inspection in January 2018, and they attained an average Progress 8 score of -0.1.

Students at Weston Road Academy answered over fifty thousand GCSE English questions in the first few months of using Educake.

We talked to Nicola Robinson, an English teacher at the school, and began by asking why they started using Educake:

Why did you start using Educake?

We wanted something to help set homework. Educake lets us very quickly check to see if the homework has been completed. It looked really easy to see strengths and weaknesses of students, and then go over who has been successful.

How did you get teachers started?

Our head of department sent us each the signup link and we just experimented. It was really easy and simple to do. It's so user friendly.

What about students?

I introduced it in a lesson and went through what Educake is. It's so simple and user friendly for them that it didn't take long and I didn't have to go into a lot of detail.

I just gave them a log in and said, "Off you go!" There were no problems.

What are you using Educake for?

We are using it for homework, at first with the English language and skills questions. Now we've started using it for literature also, setting tests on An Inspector Calls and Macbeth.

We love being able to test vocabulary so quickly. It's brilliant.

What do you like about Educake?

There are a lot of positives. It's so quick to set tests, quick to check the work has been done, and quick to see misinterpretations or misunderstandings. All this means it's easy to influence teaching.

I really like that it's so user friendly. And that there's no marking.

What's the biggest benefit of using Educake?

The biggest benefit is the reduction in our workload. It's brill. Our workload is huge. Last year we decided to set homework weekly and using Educake to help with this is a massive

benefit. We have to set some homework to each class once a week.

Now we are setting lots of good quality homework and it's easy to review and look at. You can pinpoint the area where lots of students had an issue and then reteach if necessary.

We've really like the lightening of our workload.

What do students like most?

They like that they can see their own strengths and weaknesses. Also, I post the class's results on the whiteboard so they can see where they are in the class. It's really nice for them to see that they all struggled on the same question, that they're all in it together.

How does Educake compare to other online packages for English?

I haven't ever seen anything that does what Educake does for GCSE English.

How would you describe Educake to another English teacher?

It's massively time-saving. It's easy. It's a brilliant tool to influence your teaching, showing you where to focus to help your students.

Nicola Robinson was talking to Charley Darbshire, Managing Director and Founder of Educake, in October 2019.

Educake Ltd
3 The Gallery
Marston Street
Oxford
OX4 1LF

