

Success story

A real pathway to progression

Oasis Academy Mayfield Southampton

Major changes have been taking place on the banks of the River Itchen over the last three years. Southampton's Oasis Academy Mayfield has seen levels of GCSE achievement rise significantly with a 39% increase in the number of students achieving 5A*-C and a 19% increase in 5 A*-C with English and Maths. Staff at the school point to rising levels of aspiration amongst pupils, reflected in the Academy's motto of 'Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it,' one of the key reasons behind this success.

Ruth Westerling has been a teacher at the school throughout this transitional period. Her role deals with alternative learning provision and digital learning at Oasis Academy Mayfield. Ruth believes vision2learn for **schools** is an ideal solution to help pupils find alternative pathways to success.

Ruth explains: *"I believe that vision2learn for **schools** acts as a launch-pad for the pupils I work with. Young people naturally take to online learning, especially those who simply do not prosper in a traditional classroom teaching environment."*

"My pupils place trust in this form of learning. The moderation takes place at the school by teachers they know, which means they can get feedback quickly. This really encourages them to keep up momentum. Once they have finished one qualification, they are invariably looking for the next one to start. It's great to see them regaining confidence in their education."

Des is a Year 11 pupil who has benefited from vision2learn for **schools**. When asked what he wants to do as a career, he states with bravado that he wants to enter the music industry. He then refers to a website he has set up to showcase his work. However, when his teacher Ruth asks him if he can perform some of his material he smirks coyly and politely brushes away the request.



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This simple interaction demonstrates that he has come a long way since Year 9, when he wouldn't talk civilly to any adult and was generally disruptive at school. Ruth elaborates: *"Des was incredibly disengaged when he entered Year 9. We recognised early that we had to do something to turn his education around. He was in real danger of not only leaving Year 11 with no qualifications, but having to be moved into off-site alternative learning provision."*

*"At the time my work at the school was centred on digital learning progress. When we started to plan a personalised package of learning for Des, I immediately identified vision2learn for **schools** qualifications as having an important part to play."*

Alongside BTEC Art and BTEC Science, Des was encouraged to take vision2learn for **schools'** Nutrition and Health Level 2 qualification. This approach has proved incredibly successful at Oasis Academy Mayfield. Its figures for 2010/11 for pupils leaving with the equivalent of five A*-C GCSE grades was an impressive 77%; Ruth said that vision2learn for **schools** is responsible for 10% of those results.

Ruth explains: *"In real terms, last year's success with vision2learn for **schools** helped 20 pupils move on to Level 3 learning. This is a huge achievement. It means that these young people will have new opportunities that they were in danger of missing out on. It also demonstrates our commitment to foster*



a can-do attitude towards attainment here at Oasis Academy Mayfield.”

Des is also finding that vision2learn for **schools** Nutrition and Health is enhancing his performance in GCSE PE. Initially he was finding this course a challenge, but with the knowledge he has gained on healthy eating, the benefits of a good diet and nutrition he has now turned a corner.

When asked about GCSE PE, Des replies confidently: *“I love boxing and I also do free running at least twice a week. The vision2learn for **schools** course has been a great help with my studies for PE, because I find it so easy to use.”*

Ruth asks Des what he wants to do after he finishes school, to which he proclaims with a swagger that he is going to start his journey towards music stardom. Where will you start, she asks. At this he pauses. After a moment’s consideration, he says he will go to one of the colleges in Southampton city centre to study music production – it has a recording studio there he says.

Ruth highlights this as a major step forward for young people living in this community. She explains: *“Children growing up in Woolston can be quite insular. Other than going to the odd football match, people do not cross the River Itchen very often. So the fact that Des holds aspirations to move onto Level 3 at a city centre college is a huge measure of his progression.”*

In two years Des has grown from showing hostility towards adults to a Year 11 student with predicted

grades of seven A*–C GCSE equivalent. When he was in Year 9 it would take a brave teacher to predict anything other than one GCSE at the most. As a lasting mark of his time at Oasis Academy Mayfield Des is even in the process of creating a mural for the school entitled ‘Stop the Traffik’.

Ruth concludes: *“Over the last three years vision2learn for **schools** has played an important part in helping to raise aspirations at Oasis Academy Mayfield. For some students it can be the difference between leaving school with or without qualifications. It is that stark.*

*“In the future we hope to be able to add vision2learn for **schools** Functional Skills Maths and Functional Skills English, so we can offer more options for pupils with specific learning needs. We want our pupils to have every opportunity of gaining the five A*–C GCSE equivalents they will need for their careers.*

*“For Des, vision2learn for **schools** has helped to raise his confidence and channel his attention into his studies. His change of outlook will hopefully give him the drive he needs to perform well at GCSE and put his creative talents to good use at Level 3. It has been a remarkable turnaround for him and we all wish him well.”*

Oasis Academy Mayfield

This mixed school of 762 pupils is based in Southampton, Hampshire. Its recent 58% raise in achievement has contributed to GCSE grades approaching the national average, which marks a real improvement for the Academy. A new state of the art Academy building is set to open in February 2012, featuring an open-plan atrium, state of the art ICT facilities and a community hub all set in landscaped surroundings with additional sporting facilities.

Contact us

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