



LOVED BY STUDENTS,  
RECOMMENDED BY TEACHERS

## Students' Progress Levels are Remarkable with GCSEPod

A View from Jenny Bashford, Director of Learning for Year 10 at Great Barr School, Birmingham

Great Barr is a larger than average co-education secondary school in Great Barr, Birmingham. The specialist science college has a very mixed urban catchment. An increasing number of free schools now in the area means that its catchment is far wider than it once was and often students travel a considerable distance to school.

The school offers a really varied curriculum and particularly excels in Science and Performing Arts. It is also making significant efforts to improve progress in other subjects.

Jenny Bashford in her role as Director of Learning recently took over the management of GCSEPod at the school and within a short space of time is reporting some remarkable progress.

### How is GCSEPod helping your students to make progress?

We are able to track usage vs progress and without a shadow of a doubt students who use GCSEPod make better progress. Generally we can see that **students who have used GCSEPod on a regular basis have made up to 4 levels of progress** in a given subject. In some instances our top users have jumped even more levels. Two students who joined the school from Somalia used GCSEPod over the summer holidays and progressed from a grade E to a C and another student who was one of our top downloaders progressed four levels across all his subjects.



Furthermore, following a recent data drop the students who are making the best progress in Year 10 have the highest usage of GCSEPod.

### What attracted you to GCSEPod?

Progress and attainment in our learners is a key priority; we offer a diverse curriculum and are helping students to become rounded learners so wanted a resource that could benefit students across the board. GCSEPod is now used by a number of different subject teachers from History to Science, which has resulted in a massive increase in the number of student downloads.

### How have you got teachers and students to buy in to GCSEPod?

Well the results speak for themselves in terms of progress that students can make with support of GCSEPod.

However, we have also relaunched it in school through assemblies and parent workshops and have made it a key part of staff training. In my role I visit a lot of forms so I also demo GCSEPod and explain its benefits to further encourage use.

We run a monthly competition to acknowledge the top subject and student which has introduced an element of fun competition and definitely reminds our students and teachers alike to utilise the resource.

One of our top users made huge levels of progress thanks to GCSEPod and shared his success in assembly, providing tips and advice on how to get the best out of it.

### How are you using it to specifically help students to attain better results in maths?

GCSEPod forms a part of a cohesive strategy to improve attainment in maths. We run regular lunch time maths clubs where students are encouraged to use the Pods to focus on a very specific topic. They are then set assignments to complete independently with GCSEPod on their mobiles and PCs.

We can then easily track who is downloading the content and assess their answers to establish what they understand and where they need more support.