



LOVED BY STUDENTS,
RECOMMENDED BY TEACHERS

How GCSEPod is Helping to Raise Standards

North Huddersfield Trust School share their experiences

It's been a rollercoaster journey for North Huddersfield Trust School, a co-educational school which was established back in 2011 on the site of a former secondary school.

Despite making great progress in many areas when Ofsted last visited in March 2015 they labelled the school as in need of improvement – particularly with regards to attainment – yet this summer, the school achieved its best ever set of exam results and the highest Progress 8 scores across all high schools in Huddersfield – a sure sign that things are improving at the school which has almost 600 pupils age 11-16.

Now, 18 months since its last inspection, the school eagerly awaits the return of the inspectors and is quietly confident that huge progress has been made which is no more evident in the school's Progress 8 score.

Nick Howe, consultant at the school explains how a simple education resource subscription has played a part in helping to raise attainment standards.

"Our highest GCSEPod user also achieved the school's second highest Progress 8 score."

"Progress 8 is generally agreed to provide a much fairer means of comparing schools and goes a long way to demonstrate the efforts and inroads that improving schools are making across the UK.

"Whilst our exam results are not the highest in the local area we are most certainly helping our students to progress and our positive +0.28 score compared to all schools nationally – way above many high achieving schools – is a true reflection of all our hard work and determination.

"Back in 2015 Ofsted inspectors praised the school in many areas but were critical of the progress made by some groups of our students; we listened and have worked tirelessly to help students across the board to raise their attainment and set individual goals and are delighted with how far we have come. As part of our commitment to raising standards we introduced GCSEPod – an online learning and revision publisher which is increasingly being used across secondary schools around the country to help students to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. The short video content has been designed to help students to consolidate their learning away from the classroom and can be accessed across any device – perfect for our students who live their lives on the mobile devices!

"Last academic year we really pushed the benefits of GCSEPod amongst both our students and teachers and saw a huge uplift in usage. Whilst not all students chose to use it, those who did certainly benefitted.

"Data shows a direct correlation between GCSEPod usage and positive progress amongst our top users."

Nick added: "In the same way as we know categorically that those who have good attendance will make better progress, we can now see that students who use GCSEPod have higher Progress 8 scores.

"We have evidence to demonstrate that it can make a real difference and as a result have certainly noticed a much higher uptake already amongst our current Year 11 students at this early stage in the year. We are not leaving it to chance and we are helping students to set personal learning plans so they can see that if they were to allocate half an hour each week to listening and watching GCSEPod that they would be able to access in excess of 400 podcasts over the year- which would without a doubt boost their learning and revision.

"We are also working more closely with our teaching staff this year to encourage them to explore the benefits of using GCSEPod both as an effective homework resource but also as classroom content. Armed with such strong evidence that it can make such a big difference, we are confident that with the right level of support GCSEPod will continue to be an invaluable resource for students and teachers alike.