



LOVED BY STUDENTS,
RECOMMENDED BY TEACHERS



Addressing the Gender Gap with GCSEPod

Gwernyfed High School, Wales, share their experiences.

Gwernyfed High School is a small rural school in Wales. With only 480 students age 11-18 it has a huge catchment area of more than 400 sq miles.

More than 90% of its students come to school by bus with many travelling for at least twenty minutes.

Just like many schools across the UK, girls' attainment at Gwernyfed outstrips that of boys, but in recent years the school has made addressing the gender gap a key priority and as such has made significant inroads. Last year's set of exam results saw a marked improvement with the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI being 5.6% in favour of the boys.

GCSEPod, used across the entire year group, has **proved to be an effective tool in narrowing the gender gap** and engaging boys in the school.

Steve Williams, deputy head teacher at the school said: "Whilst we didn't originally subscribe to GCSEPod with boys specifically in mind, there is no doubt that it has been a useful resource to support our activities across school to engage with boys and boost their achievements.

"Our situation is by no means unique, but as a school we are working hard to address the gender gap and have introduced a range of initiatives which have had a positive impact.

"There has been a shift in culture and the boys in school know that we are working with them to **help them achieve their full potential**. Their aspirations have been raised and they are responding well. Our boys understand we have a genuine interest in their success and like the fact that we use sport and their other interests from both inside and outside of school as a means of motivating them.

"GCSEPod has been a really useful resource in particular. They respond to the technology, whether it's being used by teachers in the classroom or as an independent learning tool. They tell us that **they love GCSEPod** because it provides them with the information they need in small chunks and in a format they are familiar with.

Often they will sit on the bus to and from school with headphones plugged into their phones listening and watching the podcasts; their friends are none the wiser which is a huge plus point for some of them!

We've seen boys who have been particularly difficult to engage with downloading a large volume of podcasts – not only on the instructions of their teachers but totally independently too.

Without a doubt GCSEPod has played its part in our intervention work with boys in school over recent years. But in many ways this has been a by-product; the initial appeal of GCSEPod was the fact it provided cross curriculum support and would **help both the most able and less academic students**.

It has continued to have wide appeal; teachers across a variety of subjects use it in the classroom and to set assignments and we can see from the download information that it's most certainly not only the boys who are using it. Some of the top users are our high achieving conscientious girls who use the content to consolidate what they have learnt in the classroom.

Budgets are increasingly stretched so knowing we have a resource that not only helps us work with specific pupil groups but provides a well-used **valuable resource for students** across the board is certainly a huge attraction.

GCSE CONTENT FOR MOBILE

DEDICATED PROJECT MANAGER

LIVE USAGE REPORTING

SET & MARK HOMEWORK

MEASURABLE IMPACT

21 EXAM MAPPED SUBJECTS