

Educake Case Study
St Paul's Catholic College
Burgess Hill, West Sussex





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In May 2017, we talked to a mixed comprehensive voluntary-aided school in West Sussex about how and why they use Educake.

Background

St Paul's Catholic College is an 11-18 mixed school with about 1100 students, 9% of which have been eligible for school meals at any time during the last 6 years, well below the national average of 29%.

The school was rated as outstanding in their latest OFSTED inspection, and they attained an above average Progress 8 score of +0.23.

Students at St Paul's Catholic College answered over 210,000 Educake questions between September 2016 and July 2017.

We talked to Pete Clarke, Head of Science, and began by asking why St Paul's Catholic College started using Educake:

Why did you start using Educake?

Pete: We wanted something that was self-marking to reduce staff workload. It was important that it was easy to use and easy to set tests.

How do you get teachers started?

Usually at a department meeting or on an INSET day, we show new teachers how to set tests, how to view results and how students can set themselves tests. We have four new members of staff this year and we try to get them into a routine of using Educake.

How do you get students started?

We used to give them the Educake sign up code for our school and ask them to sign up themselves, but now we send Educake the data and use the spreadsheet of their login details that they provide.

At the start of the year we do an induction with the new year 7s.

I should say that moving students up to the next year in Educake is easy enough to do in July.

What do you use Educake for?

During the year we use it for homework and consolidation tasks in lessons. In the run up to exams we use it more in class for revision lessons.

Overall, the higher up the school years, the more the students tend to use it themselves.

There's more homework set now we use Educake. We tend to set homework with it once a week to each class. Our school's new marking policy is that books are marked every three weeks, but Educake means that students get feedback much more often than that.

Do students like Educake?

Yes, they enjoy it. We never get the groans you get sometimes when we ask them to use other

online resources. They don't like some of them.

They prefer it to worksheets because of the meaningful instant feedback they get.

Students really like the "10 Random Questions" button to set themselves quick revision tests.

What do teachers think of Educake?

They like the speed of it. It's really quick to use and you're not waiting ages for it to load. Teachers are bombarded with new apps and resources so it needs to be easy to use. Educake is very straightforward.

What's your IT setup like?

It's good. Students in years 7, 8 and 9 get netbooks, and those in years 10 and 11 get iPads. Parents pay £24 a month for this, if they can afford it. With enough doing this, we can offer a device to those who can't afford one.

How would you describe Educake to a teacher at another school?

It's for quick tests of understanding with immediate feedback for students. It gives teachers information to inform teaching and future lesson planning.

The three best things are the instant feedback for students, the ease of setting tests, and the help and customer support with quick responses to any queries.

It's changed quite a bit since we first started. There are lots of new features all the time.

Pete Clarke was speaking to Charley Darbishire, founder of Educake, in May 2017.

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