

UniServity cLc Case Study: Sandbach School



Sandbach School

Personalised Learning

Sandbach School, Cheshire, is a boys school with approximately 1170 students from the ages of 11 - 18.
www.sandbachschool.cheshire.sch.uk

Sandbach School has focused on developing interactive learning and teaching using the UniServity cLc (connected Learning communities) Learning Platform as a vehicle for engagement, creativity and innovative practice.

The school has provided a personalised learning experience for all their students using a variety of innovative approaches such as student's ePortfolios becoming the basis for examiner assessment, to developing self and peer assessment through formalised reflection activities across the school; and promoting differentiation and extension through targeted GAT and SEN set work.

Andrew Sykes, the school's resident cLc coach, supported by the ICTAC (ICT Across the Curriculum) group spearheaded by Darren Bootheystone, have led the way in personalising learning by creating out-of-hours learning opportunities and enhancing levels of engagement at the school.

Focusing on the development of PLTS, students have been self-evidencing their progress targets and reflection, supporting the whole school AFL strategy. Students have soon learned how to use forums, quizzes, blogs and ePortfolios. Two projects worthy of particular mention include the excellent use of the cLc by Year 12 Media Studies Students and Year 11 'Gifted and Talented' students who created their own exemplary GCSE Literature resources to support their own learning.

The community dimension has been a dominant feature of the school's rapid progress in the use of the cLc. Training and collaboration with local secondary schools has resulted in a range of significant ICT and Learning Platform initiatives, including in-house training, reciprocal, inter-school training sessions and cLc-based subject conferences, designed to enhance progress in GCSE and A Level examinations.

Moving forward, the school will use the cLc to focus on developing its broader community potential by training partner primary schools in using the Learning Platform as a means to improving transition for learners.



SANDBACH SCHOOL
~ a Specialist Arts College

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PLTS Profile

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Personal Learning Thinking Skills (PLTS)

What are they?
In all aspects of your work in school you will not only develop your subject knowledge but skills which apply to every part of your learning. These are the essential skills that will enable you to become a confident, capable and successful citizen now and in the future. When you leave school, employers are wanting people who show these essential skills and being able to develop these now at an early stage will be a real advantage to you. Your teachers will help you throughout Year 7 to understand and recognise the six skill areas and how to really promote them in all areas of your work.

What are these essential skills?
This Personal Skills profile is a way of you being able to record your development in six key areas. You will need to develop your skills as:

- Team Worker
- Independent Enquirer
- Creative Thinker
- Reflective Learner
- Self Manager
- Effective Participant

What's in it for me?
Using your Personal Skills Profile effectively will really help you to reflect upon your qualities as a learner and a person. You will be able to think about what really motivates you to learn, what personal qualities you need to succeed as well as how well you interact with others. Often you show the different qualities needed in each of the skill areas, this will be recognised by your teachers and you will need to record the evidence of what you did. Over the year, you will build up a range of skills which will help you assess your own progress.

Don't forget to fill in your **Self Review Log**

Poetry Task 1

Welcome to the Gifted and Talented cLc page for Poetry Task 1.

Our aim is to help you prepare and revise for your GCSE English Literature exam. This is for the AQA Specification A course covering material from the AQA Anthology.

We hope to do this by giving you a sample question similar to what you will get in the exam. Through this you can revise the exam techniques and learn more about the poems that you may need to know in the Summer. Here is the question we have prepared:

Compare the ways parent/child relationships are presented in Before You Were Mine by Carol Ann Duffy and three other poems, one by Simon Armitage and any two from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.

Navigation buttons: Back to Literature 5, Before You Were Mine, Homecoming, On My First Solstice, The Affliction of Mr..., Exam Techniques, Links.

The final thing to do was to create the E-Portfolio and add all our work to it. The school decided to use the school website to create this as it has a homepage facility, allowing you to insert blogs, forums etc. The first job was to design the homepage itself, then upload the work onto the school system and link to it on various pages on the homepage. Then I had to create the blog and write all about what we had done during the course of the production process.

Example Learning Platform screenshots showing a Personal Learning Thinking Skills (PLTS) wiki and self review log. A poetry task for a Gifted and Talented Poetry profile set and excerpt from a Media Studies ePortfolio homepage.

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