

CASE STUDY:

Microsoft Global Showcase School

Background

UTC Reading is a University Technical College that delivers computer science and engineering excellence for 14-19 year olds.

In 2015 the school was recognised for leading innovative approaches to integrating technology in teaching and learning, when it was named a Microsoft Global Showcase Academy.

The academy status, which follows study visits and assessments from the Microsoft team, reflects technological best practice that others can learn from.

Among the features:

- Students in computer science study towards industry specific qualifications such as Microsoft IT Academy, with 250 Microsoft professional qualifications achieved in the last year
- Staff and students share documents and other work via One Drive, which is hosted in the Cloud. This facilitates seamless learning by providing students with access to work anywhere, anytime, via any device, and reduces reliance on paper-based resources
- Collaborative learning tools enable faster feedback and assessment, which leads to students making greater progress in their studies
- All students have access to personal laptops equipped with the latest Microsoft applications
- The school has been trialling use of Yammer as an internal communications tool

The cumulative effect is a more personalised approach to learning, using mobile and Cloud-based technologies to better prepare students for success in the workplace.

The use of digital technologies is improving collaboration between students and staff and leading to faster formative feedback which in turn accelerates learning.

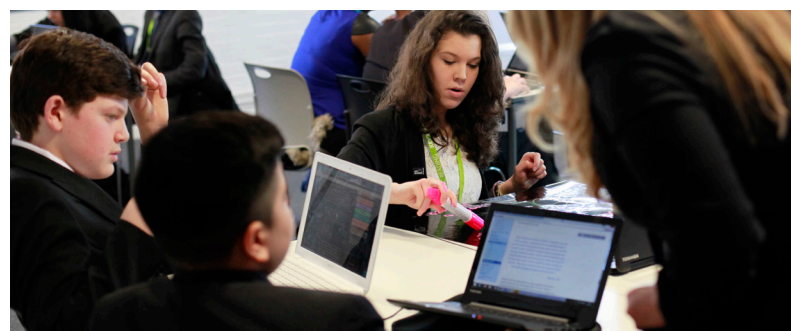
As a result, student attainment is among the highest in the country. In 2015:

100%

OF YEAR 13 STUDENTS ACHIEVED AN A-LEVEL PASS – THE BTEC AVERAGE GRADE WAS DISTINCTION*

71%

OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS ACHIEVED FIVE MORE A*-C GRADES AT GCSE (INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS) COMPARED TO A NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 53.4%





Showcase School



Status benefits

UTC Reading now joins a global community of 650 schools which are rethinking teaching, learning and assessment in order to drive deep 21st century competencies.

Showcase schools also receive the following benefits from Microsoft as part of the program:

- Collaboration with an international group of thought leaders
- Microsoft Innovative Educators Experts (MIE Experts) available to help drive innovation and support staff, peers and students
- Access to professional development for educators
- Invitations to regional and global events
- Monthly community webinars and Yammer group discussions



BEING SELECTED AS A MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL IS A GREAT RECOGNITION OF THE PASSION THAT OUR STAFF HAVE FOR CREATING THE BEST POSSIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS. OUR STUDENTS ARE BEING PREPARED FOR CAREERS IN DIGITAL INDUSTRIES AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY HAVE THE SKILLS THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO COMPETE AND BE SUCCESSFUL.

WE ARE NOW CONNECTING WITH OTHER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE WORLD TO SHARE BEST PRACTICE AND JOINTLY DEVELOP INNOVATIVE WAYS TO EQUIP OUR STUDENTS WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS.



Joanne Harper,
Principal at UTC Reading



MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOLS ARE SHINING EXAMPLES OF THOSE APPLYING PURPOSE DRIVEN INNOVATION TO BUILD CONNECTION, MOTIVATE STUDENTS AND TO CREATE COMMUNITY IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL.

THESE SCHOOLS ARE TRULY TRANSFORMING LEARNING AND PROVIDING A MORE PERSONALISED EDUCATION TO STUDENTS; EMPOWERING THEM TO ACHIEVE MORE.



Anthony Salcito,
Vice President of Worldwide Education at Microsoft



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Staff insights



MICROSOFT PRODUCTS, SUCH AS ONENOTE, HAVE MADE SUCH AN IMPACT ON TEACHERS' ABILITY TO PLAN AND MANAGE LESSONS, COLLABORATE WITH STUDENTS AND DELIVER FORMATIVE FEEDBACK IN DIFFERENT WAYS. AS A RESULT WE HAVE MIGRATED SEAMLESSLY, WITHIN THE SPACE OF SIX MONTHS, TO A NEW STYLE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING. THE TIME SAVED AND THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IS EVIDENT IN ANY CLASSROOM WHERE ONENOTE IS BEING USED.



Jonathan Nicholls,
Assistant Principal at UTC Reading



THE SUPPORT FROM MICROSOFT, IN TERMS OF ADVICE FOR USAGE IN THE CLASSROOM, HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS. THE RESPONSIVE NATURE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE APPS FOR THE CLASSROOM MEANT WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TECHNOLOGY QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY, WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT OR EXTENSIVE TRAINING. LOOKING BACK AT OUR IMPLEMENTATION, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE PAIN IN MIGRATING TO NEW APPS. AS AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT, OUR INCREASED USE OF TECHNOLOGY HAS REDUCED RELIANCE ON PRINTED RESOURCES WHICH HAS REDUCED PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPYING COSTS.

WITH OVER 250 MICROSOFT PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED IN THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR, UTC READING STUDENTS ARE ADDING TO THEIR CVS AND DEVELOPING TECHNICAL SKILLS THAT ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER IN THE COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET. THIS HOLDS TANGIBLE VALUE FOR THE STUDENT, AND GREATLY ENHANCES THEIR CAREER PROSPECTS IN THE REAL WORLD.



Mike Halliday,
Business Relations Manager at UTC Reading



Showcase School



Student viewpoints

Students at UTC Reading readily acknowledge the benefits of following a technology rich learning experience.



I USE 365 FOR ONENOTE. IT'S GREAT BECAUSE TEACHERS CAN CREATE NOTEBOOKS AND YOUR ENTIRE CLASS CAN COLLABORATE ON IT. THEY CAN PUT WORKSHEETS ON THERE AND YOU CAN ACCESS IT FROM ANYWHERE. IT MEANS IF MY LAPTOP DIES I CAN STILL ACCESS MY WORK AT HOME.



George Hindmarsh
Year 10 student



WE USE ONENOTE IN LESSONS AS WELL AS AT HOME, SO IT'S BEING USED ALL THE TIME AND BY ALL DIFFERENT SUBJECTS.

I MAINLY USE MINE FOR EMAILS BECAUSE I'VE GOT SO MUCH GOING ON, SO IT'S GOOD FOR KEEPING TRACK OF EVERYTHING AND BEING ABLE TO ACCESS IT ANYWHERE.



Frances Dresser
Year 10 student