

Staffordshire college wins award

Brownhills Maths and Computing College wins Centre of Excellence award

Brownhills Maths and Computing College in Stoke on Trent has been presented by EDI with a Centre of Excellence award for its innovative approach to assessment and dedication to pupil development. Recognising and rewarding the college for its continued focus on student progress and development, the award also highlights the improvements in attainment that the school has made over the past few years.

Brownhills Maths and Computing College is an inner city school with over 715 pupils, 46% of whom are ethnic minority. Many of its pupils come from deprived areas and have English as a second language, presenting challenges for the school not only in curriculum teaching but also in assessing the level and progress of its students. Over the past few years the school has excelled in driving improvements and raising standards, helped by its innovative approach to assessment. According to the recently published school league tables, Brownhills Maths and Computing College is now in the top 5% in the country for the value that it adds to each student's progress throughout their time at the college. Just last month the school was visited by Ofsted, with the report recognising "outstanding progress from the time pupils start at the school to when they finish in year 11, especially in Maths and English".

Assessment has consistently been part of the school's drive for improvement. Recognising that ICT can play a vital role, both in motivating students to take tests and also in helping analyse assessment data, Brownhills Maths and Computing College uses Goal, an online interactive assessment service, to measure a wide range of pupil knowledge and skill capabilities. Using Goal as part of the assessment process has enabled the school to track every single student's progress, highlighting areas and issues for concern. It also means that results of tests are provided to teachers within minutes, giving students quick and targeted feedback – something which the college believes is vital in motivating students.

Taking assessment beyond simple testing, Brownhills has also taken the innovative step of employing both data and achievement managers who constantly analyse Goal's reports and other tracking systems to see whether students are on course to meet their targets. Teachers at the college then use this information to ensure that every student is being provided with the right support to fulfil his or her potential.

Being nominated for a Centre of Excellence Award by EDI highlights the success of this whole-school assessment strategy. Andrew Stanier, Head of Brownhills Maths and Computing College, commented: "Our school has gone from strength to strength in the past few years and we are thrilled to be nominated as a Centre of Excellence by EDI. We are proud to record a significant improvement in students' progress as they move through our school and we believe that our use of ICT within assessment has contributed to this success. Using Goal has not only helped motivate our students to sit assessments but

has also significantly reduced marking time and workload for our teachers, enabling them to concentrate on teaching rather than administration.”

Nigel Snook, Chief Executive, Education International Development commented: “We are delighted to present Brownhills Maths and Computing College with our Centre of Excellence Award. We cannot commend the school highly enough for its innovative and creative approach to assessment and we are honoured that it is using Goal services to help achieve such high standards and progress across the curriculum.”



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