

School Success Story

Carshalton Boys Sports College



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Carshalton Boys Sports College is proud to show clear evidence of its success. The school in Surrey has transformed achievement, and now shows marked improvements in examination results year after year – with especially notable effects among traditionally hard-to-engage, less academic students.

Says Head teacher Simon Barber, *“the key to this has been our determination to find the right combination of awards for each student – that’s meant tailoring a programme of study to every individual, and, crucially, making sure we help them build on their successes from Year 9 onwards.”*

Part of this has meant provision of courses which allow students to acquire a growing number of successful modules. *“You know, teenage boys enjoy collecting stuff,”* says Simon Barber, *“and that includes collecting modules that add up to an award – they really respond when they can see this happening.”*

So the vision2learn for **schools** modular, online Equality and Diversity programme finds a worthwhile and productive niche as part of the Religious Studies department’s teaching.

The programme is embedded into the half or full GCSE, or used as a stand-alone, targeted primarily at students who might otherwise have dropped out of gaining any award for RS.

Deputy Head Jenny Gaylor points out that among the strengths of Equality and Diversity is *“the way there are clear success criteria – that’s really important for this group – and the subject matter covered has shown itself capable of truly engaging our students.”*

What do students think?

Year 10 students Chris Border, Billy Gilbert-Jarman and Thube Moiy, all 15, give their own positive feedback on the course.

“It’s good,” says Billy, *“It’s made me think – I used to think ‘stereotyping’ was just another word for calling people names, but we’ve learnt what it really means, and we’ve had some good discussions in class about it.”*

For Chris, one of the benefits is he can continue learning away from school, using his home-based internet connection. *“We’ve covered loads of topics with it, and I like the way unit 1 leads into unit 2 and so on. It makes sense.”* Thube says, *“my handwriting isn’t so good – all the work is on screen, so I don’t have to worry about the way I present it. And everything’s on the web – no books to lose!”*

Plus-points for teachers

RS Head of Department Paul Henry comes up with the same point – *“the paper admin is reduced to zero, and I find that a massive help. I’ve been known to bring in the wrong books, too, but that’s not an issue with this programme.”*

Paul Henry is impressed with the content of the course, as well. *“I can honestly say that at this school, we don’t have huge problems with racism, or homophobia, or religious intolerance. But occasionally, remarks get made, more out of ignorance than hatred. The Equality and Diversity course gives us some very good scenarios and case histories which the boys can relate to, stuff they have experienced or witnessed, and we use them to prompt discussions and reflections – I think the course can help change their outlook.”*

How vision2learn for **schools** programmes work

Vision2learn for **schools** offers pupils a new way to re-engage with education and thrive through the achievement of accredited qualifications studied online from school or home.

Successful completion of the courses means more than the award of a qualification – it creates the chance to raise aspirations, by challenging the attitudes that lead to poor educational attainment.

Young people's own belief in their ability is one of the factors that make a difference at GCSE; the flexible session-based learning, and speedy feedback from teachers – key characteristics of vision2learn for **schools** courses – support a personal sense of achievement, and change the outlook of students who might otherwise find it hard to follow normal school routines.

Carshalton Boys Sports College

- 11-19 comprehensive school, with 1200 students. *'Our motto '...making a difference' is both our aim, and a description of what we do.'*
- Admits 210 students into Year 7 each year
- Situated in the London borough of Sutton, which retains six selective secondary schools out of 14
- Formerly Carshalton Boys High School, it became a specialist sports college in 2003
- Member of PiXL, the network of 170+ collaborating secondary schools focusing on online resources, training opportunities and development programmes in order to enhance performance at GCSE
- Consultant members of the SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to raising achievement in secondary education.

Outstanding Centre award

Carshalton Boys Sports College are winners of a vision2learn for **schools** Outstanding Centre award, one of a small number of schools with this award. "We were delighted to get this," says Head Simon Barber. "As a school, we think it's important to recognise achievement and to make it tangible in some way, so an award like this is very welcome."



Jenny Gaylor and Simon Barber

Contact us

For more information about vision2learn for **schools** please contact:

Jonathan Ovenden

Business Development Director

Tel: 01661 864470 (Mobile: 07730 402653)

jonathan.ovenden@creatingcareers.com