

# Flexible Friday engaging e-learning

## Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College

Berkshire's Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College is a rich multi-cultural institution. The majority of its pupils are from minority or ethnic backgrounds, with almost half hailing from Pakistani heritage. English to most is used as an additional language.

Teaching methods that bridge this communication gap are of key importance here. Rahima Dessai, Director of Learning Key Stage 4, decided that the simplicity and interactivity of vision2learn for **schools** was the perfect tool to reach out and engage a group of her low-achieving Year 11 pupils.

All twelve students took to the platform immediately, as the flexibility offered new opportunities to learn. In the midst of a busy study schedule, vision2learn for schools allowed them to work outside of school hours. The most popular choice, surprisingly, was Friday evening.

Even more remarkable is the fact that the group attended 22 consecutive two-hour sessions.

Rahima explains: *"Boxing is the main interest on most weeknights for the boys, so the flexibility of the platform was the key. The fact that this dozen pupils have stuck to a programme for over four months is a triumph of vision2learn's capacity to engage young learners."*

These Friday evening sessions were spent working together on the Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity. Despite coming from different social and religious backgrounds, the group formed a strong bond over the 22-week period and helped each other to overcome the demands of the course.



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Rahima said: *"The vision2learn content is relevant to the group's differing life experiences, and has led to some useful discussions and debates. Over the course of these group activities I have noticed significant improvements in their confidence levels and communication skills."*

*"I also used music to create a stimulating learning environment. However, the boys were always quick to turn the stereo down when it was time to talk and discuss course topics."*

Haseeb Rehman, one of Rahima's pupils, found this learning approach and environment particularly motivating. He explains: *"E-learning was a new and exciting concept for me. When I was introduced to the vision2learn platform and the Equality and Diversity course I really enjoyed it because I was able to work in a small group from 6 to 8 every Friday night."*

*"I was allowed to listen to music and I found that I was able to concentrate on what I was doing. I found Unit 1 very exciting, as I have learned about diversity and was able to relate my answers to my own life and to the community I live in. Unit 3 helped me to understand all the policies that are in place to protect human rights."*



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Haseeb's fellow pupil Kamran Gul has felt similar benefits from the course. He said: *"The vision2learn platform helped me to understand the policies of the working world. I am now very aware of all types of discrimination, and as I will be working in the near future, I will be able to recognise protected characteristics. I will also be able to look at the company's policies and understand it better. I would recommend this course to all my mates."*

Another contributing factor to Rahima and her group's success has been the full backing and support she has received from senior staff, including Head Teacher Paul McAteer. He said: *"At Slough and Eton we want every pupil to enjoy the experience of learning. We recognise that pupils' preferred methods of learning varies and vision2learn offers an ideal alternative means of learning and achieving qualifications to the traditional routes that we offer."*

*"The course has engaged and motivated pupils to the extent that their attendance between 6–8pm on Friday evenings has been 100%. The work covered in Equality and Diversity reinforces what we wish to embed in the culture of the school. Evidence from the course has been used to support our submissions for Ofsted and SIAS, and these have both been very successful."*

All 12 of Rahima's group successfully completed and passed their Equality and Diversity vision2learn for **schools** course. This is a great example of how the service can help pupils progress up from being Level 1 learners to Level 2 learner status.

Rahima said: *"It has been a great success story. One of the most important life skills the group has learned is the ability to spot and challenge discrimination happening, which will help them in both the work place and the community. We already have a further 15 Year 11 pupils ready to take on Equality and Diversity in a similar way in the next academic year. I can't wait to get started!"*

The new skills Rahima has nurtured in her pupils over those Friday night sessions stand testament to vision2learn for **schools**' ability to break down cultural and communication barriers. Her dozen success stories now have the ability to move forward together towards success.

### Slough and Eton C of E Business and Enterprise College

In its most recent Ofsted report (May 2011), Slough and Eton achieved 'outstanding' grades for both overall effectiveness and sustained improvement. The 2010/11 academic year was the first time Slough and Eton had employed the vision2learn service. The success of Rahima and her students will ensure that it will not be the last. As a C of E school the vision2learn course has contributed to an outstanding judgement.

### Contact us

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