

Madeley Academy Case Study



How Madeley Academy went from 50% to 100% on levels 4+ in D&T

The Design and Technology department at Madeley Academy has celebrated unprecedented GCSE exam success this year.

In a year which has seen huge uncertainty, Madeley has adapted its approach to teaching and learning, which has led to a sharp rise in results.

Amongst its Year 11 students, the school saw a huge increase in the number of students achieving a Level 4 or above, from 50% to 100%!

The academy, based in the historic mining town of Madeley, Telford, invested in Daydream Education's Design and Technology GCSE Pocket Poster Revision Guides as part of a multipronged strategy to improve student engagement and understanding and to prepare them fully for their GCSE exams.

The Pocket Poster revision guides were introduced to all students to build their base knowledge of the syllabus before attempting mock exam questions. The strategy was based on the concept of 'a little and often'.

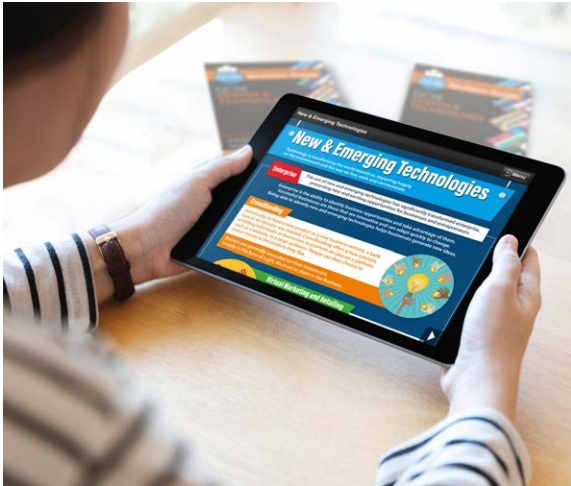


"The pocket guide presents students with a format that is easy to digest with key statements of knowledge being supported by clear image triggers. The impact of text associated with imagery cannot be underestimated, especially when recall is necessary in the examination. With the written exam now worth 50% of the GCSE, it is even more important to ensure appropriate revision strategies. Always a little and often."

Jonathan Boyle, Madeley Academy

Mr Jonathan Boyle, Deputy Head Teacher at Madeley Academy, believes that the introduction of the Pocket Poster Revision Guides played a significant role in students' progress and success.

Having key information profiled in such a compact format ensured that students were able to work through the essential topics at their own pace. Teachers worked with students to ensure the guides were used over the period from September to the exam, giving plenty of time to become familiar with the content on more than one occasion.



Testing students on what was in the revision guide and relating this to the syllabus was the greater part of the strategy, with many students jumping two to three grades over the space of a term.

The Pocket Posters were one of several resources that Madeley used to support students with their exam preparation. The school is also very lucky to have a great team of experienced and dedicated teachers whom have a strong track record in Design and Technology, something which has proved invaluable.

How will Madeley Use Pocket Posters Moving Forward?

Madeley plans to continue using Pocket Posters with students to improve knowledge and reinforce important concepts.

The new digital assessments, which are free with the Pocket Posters, will be used for retrieval practice and to help students become familiar with testing. Frequent, low-stakes testing has been proven to improve memory and students' confidence, so the assessments are something Madeley is looking forward to utilising.

For more information about Madeley Academy's Design & Technology strategy, contact Jonathan Boyle at jboyle@madeleyacademy.com.