



## Facility enables pupil-focused education

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David Wilmot, Headteacher  
Cams Hill School

Education at Cams Hill School has always been pupil-focused hence the School’s growing success over many years. In order to raise the game in terms of pupil achievement and knowing the pupils really well, Facility was introduced to enable the next crucial stage of development.

The school’s motto is “Quality and Achievement” and Headteacher David Wilmot is using Facility to bring about both. He said: “I decided to go for Facility on the basis of what’s best for the school, staff and children, to take us forward over the next 10 to 15 years. What we can now do are the ‘people’ things that I have always wanted.”

The change to a new management system was a big one and entirely worth it. Facility is enabling Cams Hill to move forward focusing especially on what is most important – pupil achievement, pupil welfare and pupil engagement in the life of the school from early morning to early evening. For the first time they can now focus very effectively on every child and ‘at a glance’ using Facility.

The co-educational, 11-16 secondary has 1030 pupils and stands on the edge of Fareham in Hampshire. It has always been at the forefront of education in its area and was one of the first Beacon Schools in the UK. It later became a Leading Edge School and is also a Specialist Science School. The move to Facility was made in order to take control of its data so management decisions are more informed and aimed at increasing opportunities for its learners.

David said: "We want to get more to grips with pupil data and make better use of it. Facility is the vehicle we're using for that. I want people to use and understand the information because it is at the heart of understanding the children, where they are and where they're heading."

### **New mentoring scheme**

He is setting up a mentoring scheme so Heads of Department can assess a child's performance and forecast what their level of achievement should be, setting targets based on the real data available within Facility. With accurate and up-to-date information, staff can spend time with individual pupils to discuss progress. "It can be totally pupil focussed to ensure that children are performing to the expectations. We could never do this before."

Data manager Mary Greenway explained that Cams Hill changed to Facility after realising its old system was too cumbersome to support the kind of detailed and accurate information needed to support pupil performance. Facility's flexibility soon proved popular with teachers. "We introduced it to the staff by doing reviews. As soon as they saw a complete, collated set of reviews for each child coming out of the printer they were convinced. They used to get them in year groups and had to collate them by hand," Mary said.

Facility administrator Mandy Maddison agreed: "They suddenly saw their workload drop and they liked it."

All staff now have instant access to the information they need and can be sure it is accurate and up-to-date. The result is a clearer and more precise record for both them and parents. Mandy explained: "We put all the positive awards and merits in so you have a whole picture. You don't just focus on the bad points." That has made assessing pupils' performance much more effective. Mary said: "We have introduced performance snapshots for all the year groups and they can be incorporated into letters for parents. In addition staff can also give a much better annual review because they have a framework to base them on. They have a bank of comments, but free text allows them to tailor them to individual pupils."

### **More information for parents**

The next stage will be to allow parents to check information whenever they want to by offering access through ePortal, rather than sending out letters. That will be linked to closer monitoring of pupil progress by tracking twice a year. "With tracking we can see exactly where a child is and where we need to target them for additional mentoring/coaching support. We can see if they have made progress and where. You can pull in information from the background so it gives more of an idea how to deal with those who have problems," Mandy said.

Key Stage Managers and Heads of Year have welcomed the availability of information because they can see all incidents that might have had an effect on any individual. There was an unexpected bonus from the improved records. Where there are several pupils from the same family it is possible to identify potential difficulties across the school. Mandy explained: "If a family member has been taken into hospital, for example, it is easy to spot if other children in the school will be affected."

Staff believe that Facility has reduced the administration burden and they are keen to pass on their experience to others. Mary said: "Facility has made our life so much easier and we can see where we are going with it. We think it's brilliant – that's why the headteacher chose it." The school now hosts Facility training sessions on site and has found the resultant links extremely useful. Mandy said: "As a Leading Edge School we are keen to help others and hosting training here helps us to build a local network." The majority of the feedback from the events held so far has been positive.



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