



## New start brings swift results

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Ann Marie Mulkerins, Assistant head  
Compton School

Although the Compton School only recently started using Facility it is already finding positive effects on student achievement and attendance as well as cutting down on paperwork and creating more time for staff.

The 800 student secondary in Barnet, North London has several educational challenges to face. Its catchment area consists mainly of three large estates and many of the potentially bright pupils are lost to the local grammar schools. It has 38 per cent students with special needs but achieves 68 per cent A-C grades at GCSE.

### Achievement

Assistant head Ann Marie Mulkerins was the school's achievement co-ordinator before Facility was installed and she was keen to use it to take advantage of its ability to manage data quickly and efficiently. It has already helped to boost value-added measures in achievement.

Regular student performance reviews were already carried out at the school but Facility speeded up the process this year so staff could make early interventions where needed. Using Fischer Family Trust data as a baseline the school created a set of target grades to compare directly with mock examination results.

It was easy to identify the children who were not on target and take appropriate action in each case. It was particularly useful in identifying youngsters who had predicted high grades but were not reaching them. "We did a thorough check after the year 11 mocks and we could easily see who's got a challenge across the board or just in one subject.

"We didn't let them get to Christmas without a clear picture of how everyone was doing. In terms of impacting on students' performance we could take action much more quickly. We identified those kids who were predicted to do well but were not reaching their potential. We wouldn't have even looked at them before."

### Attendance

The school uses Facility to carry out roll call and lesson by lesson attendance and it has had an unexpected benefit. Many teachers display the class attendance on whiteboards while they are taking registers and that has triggered an unusual competitive streak in year 9.

"Some of the year 9 forms are having a real competition over attendance. Some teachers have their whiteboards on to show who's 'top attender' and it is good to see the others engaged in support for the ones with good attendance. It has subliminally raised the children's awareness of how importance attendance is."

### Behaviour

One of the key areas that Facility will help the school is in organising its Positive Behaviour policies. The Compton always had a behaviour code in place but since the arrival of Facility it has been more effective for staff. "It enables people to monitor behaviour daily and put in support strategies for students immediately so that they don't spiral out of control," Ann Marie said.

One particular case showed the system's power. Staff gave a printed log of one student's behaviour to her mother and noticed an improvement almost straight away. "It's really made a difference that we can produce a record at the press of a button," Ann Marie said.

Form staff can see events at the end of each day and heads of year are given weekly reviews so everyone is kept up to date. "The system before was good but this is quicker and easier because before you would have to have a log typed up by each head of year from paper records and that meant deciphering everyone's handwriting.

"This gives everyone more control but it also gives the students control because they know they can be watched."

One unforeseen benefit is that the school can now identify which areas of behaviour need most attention because they have categorised events. "We are only just starting to realise the percentage of incidents that involve equal opportunities."

### Staff support

In spite of the range of computing skill levels among the Compton's staff the majority have taken to the system quickly and enthusiastically. "They have adopted it very quickly considering we had some who really did not like using computers. After I insisted that everyone used the system to record behaviour events I expected opposition but the staff were very positive as soon as they saw that it could help them monitor things daily.

"It has enabled staff to have a one-to-one with students on the day that things happen. It is very powerful," Ann Marie said. She is delighted with how well the staff have supported the change to Facility but she also applauds the support she has had from Serco's implementation team.

"I can't praise them highly enough. They all have their own strengths but they are a great team," she added.

The school is now set to build on its initial success and to extend the system further. "We are nowhere near perfect and we still have lots to do but we have made a great start," Ann Marie said.