

The Whole-School Homework Solution

Show My Homework at Tendring Technology College



Tendring Technology College:
Caroline Haynes, Principal at Tendring Technology College (TTC) in Essex, a part of the Academies Enterprise Trust, talks about her

Show My Homework (SMHW) experience and how it is helping her school's homework management.

What were three points of frustration you faced before SMHW?

Before SMHW there was no straightforward way to monitor homework. We relied upon students tracking their own homework. The questionnaire return rate was below 20% creating an unreliable overview of what was being set. Tracking homework completion rates created additional frustration. We relied upon teachers reporting who was/wasn't completing homework, an extremely time-consuming and unreliable process.

Finally, homework was a contentious issue with parents. Many students didn't record their homework, thus parents assumed it hadn't been set. This led to complaints, diverting our Learning Team's attention away from their primary focus, improving learning in the classroom.

What was the big 'a-ha' moment when you decided to try SMHW?

After extensive research we highlighted the need for rigorous homework monitoring. Furthermore, we received various, easily-avoidable, parental complaints. Following a short phone demonstration, and a presentation to the SLT it was evident that SMHW would address these issues.

What are your three favourite features?

1 - Transparency for teachers, students and parents

2 - Simplicity, intuitive to use

3 - Accountability, teachers are now directly accountable for homework they set and students for homework they receive

What specific problems has SMHW addressed that aspiring 'Outstanding' schools could relate to?

Tracking and monitoring what is being set and by whom.

Embedding technology across the school takes huge effort, how did staff react?

Introducing a new IT system is always difficult, particularly in a split-site school with 2000 students and 180 teachers. The majority of teachers reacted extremely positively and quickly adopted the system. It has already proven to be an effective management-tool and for the first time, homework forms part of teachers' Annual Performance Reviews.

What is the single-biggest reason you love/would recommend SMHW?

Accountability: For students to complete homework and for teachers to set meaningful, regular homework that allows our students to learn effectively outside the classroom.

C. Haynes
Principal