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 Success Stories

~ featuring ~

Woodfield School
A Special School in Brent
Excellence and Equality

“
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”

~ Mary Brooke, ICT co-ordinator at Woodfield School

Woodfield School Excellence and Equality

ICT co-ordinator, Mary Brooke, describes how Espresso has helped Special Educational Needs pupils get to grips with ICT and provide a broad and balanced curriculum.



Woodfield School is a school for young people with moderate learning difficulties from ages 11 – 16. Pupils are the subject of a statement of special educational needs that usually indicates a significantly greater difficulty in making academic progress than most of their peers in mainstream schools. They may also have specific difficulties usually associated with learning to read. Some pupils are under achievers and some pupils also have emotional and behavioural needs.

Setting the scene

**Woodfield School
Glenwood Avenue
Kingsbury
London
NW9 7LY**

Headteacher: Mr H Williams

ICT Co-ordinator: Mrs Brooke

Tel: 020 8205 1977

Fax: 020 8205 5877

Email:

admin@woodfield.brent.sch.uk

Website:

www.woodfield.brent.sch.uk

Number of pupils: 85

Teachers: 15

Classroom assistants: 10

Commitment to a broad curriculum and integration

The school is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, including full entitlement to the National Curriculum, which is underpinned by Brent's curriculum statement "Excellence and Equality". This implies a far higher level of teacher and adult support than is normally provided in mainstream secondary schools. The school is 'networked' to provide access to the National Grid for Learning.

Some pupils will receive all of their secondary education at Woodfield. Others, after a period during which their specific learning needs are addressed, will be able to benefit from education in mainstream schools. We are committed to supporting integration whenever it is appropriate.

We began using Espresso about two years ago. We were initially approached by the LEA and then visited by one of Espresso's representatives. We

decided to subscribe to the service because we found it offered excellent resources for both teaching and learning and that it was affordable and good value for money. Being one of the first schools to subscribe to the Espresso service we become a pilot school and even received a free satellite dish.

The way that Espresso is designed and constructed makes it totally user-friendly and its provision of current, relevant materials that are regularly up-dated are incredibly useful. These engaging, entertaining resources are particularly good for pupils at our school who have a short attention span and who may become easily distracted or easily bored. Espresso really grabs their attention and maintains their interest. It also gives the pupils freedom and independence with its ease of use. It is so simple to navigate and us teachers have no worries that the pupils will be wandering off onto pages that are not appropriate. Our pupils are familiar with both the Primary and Key stage 3 resources.



Woodfield School

Woodfield is a community special school for children with moderate learning difficulties. The school is set within the Welsh Harp conservation area within a busy inner city borough of North London. It is close to the Welsh Harp reservoir and the Welsh Harp Day Field Centre. Of the one hundred places, twelve places are available for pupils with additional and complex speech and language needs. Pupils are admitted throughout the year. The school is organised to teach two groups of ten pupils in each academic year.

At Woodfield, subject specialists deliver the curriculum lessons, as in most secondary schools. We have an ICT room where pupils receive ICT lessons and subject teachers can book this room for their class use. There are eleven networked computers in the ICT room and one networked computer in almost every classroom including one in the teachers' work area. In all we have 25 curriculum computers from which Espresso can be accessed.

All teachers at the school have had experience using Espresso in their teaching. Some teachers use it on a regular basis, several times a week. Other teachers use Espresso when it is appropriate to a specific lesson or topic.

Maths teachers especially like using Espresso because the work is differentiated to meet the needs of all the pupils in the class. This is particularly useful for a school such as ours, which has a wide range of abilities within each class. The Modern Foreign Languages teacher has enjoyed using the French resource because it is possible for pupils to hear real French being spoken.

Staff enjoy using Espresso because the content is matched so well with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The full screen video clips can be used in class to introduce a topic or support previous teaching. Espresso has prepared a wealth of supporting resources to extend teaching and learning. Work sheets, quizzes and links to relevant Internet sites, which are previously researched for quality, are all regularly used within lessons.

"The use of materials familiar to pupils, such as television-style video, keeps their attention and takes them out of the school into real situations."

Mary Brooke, ICT Co-ordinator, Woodfield School

The homework service is incredibly useful and so too is the 'Staffroom', which is linked to all of the modules and explains how they support the QCA Schemes of Work. This saves a great deal of teachers' time and allows us to get back to the hands-on work.

At the moment we are developing a 'Healthy Eating Tuck Shop' in our Food Technology lessons. Espresso has provided huge amounts of information on healthy eating topics in its Secondary PHSE module which pupils have found riveting – especially the effects of drinking cola in excess.



Espresso has helped teachers to deliver lessons to pupils who find it difficult to grasp concepts easily. The use of materials familiar to pupils, such as television-style video, keeps their attention and takes them out of the school into real situations. For teachers there are lesson plans and extensive suggestions for lessons and a broad range of help is offered.

It is difficult to assess just how much Espresso has contributed towards progression in separate subjects areas as our pupils make slow progress, which is measured over a much longer period of time. However I can say that it is making a great contribution in all of these areas.

Contact us today for a free in-school demonstration:

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