



The Power of Paperless Homework

Increased student engagement, empowered parents and money saved

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Haydon School is a mixed secondary school and sixth form in Greater London. They are firmly committed to individual excellence, ensuring that all students fulfil their potential.

As an already Outstanding school, why did you decide to implement Show My Homework (SMHW)?

Feedback from our parents said they were struggling to support their children with homework because very little information was written in paper planners. Teachers who are parents said SMHW was one application which really worked for them and completely changed the conversation around the dinner table, empowering them as parents.

What were your motives behind going paperless?

We stopped using paper planners so we could save costs and pay for SMHW, the prices were similar and we saved the administration costs of putting the planners together.

We analysed the information that was going in planners and realised we could supply this information through SMHW and other means of communication. Students value their mobile devices and the apps that go on them and put very little value in a paper planner.

How did students and staff react when you switched from organisers to using an online solution?

There is a general technology tiredness in schools from staff. However, they very quickly realised that SMHW was a simple and highly effective tool. Uptake was excellent as early adopters got on board and teachers who are parents sang its praises. Initially, students were very keen - it meant they didn't have to write homework down in class.

Although a few realised their parents would be able to view all homework set and were a little less enthusiastic - information is power!

Have you seen an improvement in student engagement since switching to SMHW?

There has been a transformation in engagement. With paper planners, students had numerous excuses but with SMHW, students are supported in being a lot more organised. This coupled with including parents and support staff in the homework process has been a huge step forward.



What other benefits have you experienced?

Communication with students has improved considerably. For instance, when you forget to tell students to bring something along to their next lesson, you can put it on SMHW and guarantee 90% will bring it in.

As a parent of a child who uses SMHW, what personal experiences did you want to replicate in your school?

I saw the independence the software gave my daughter and as parents, we were fully aware of the level and type of homework she was given.

It meant we could negotiate with her in terms of balancing her social life, relaxation and homework. I have spoken to many parents and this is always the holy grail for them.

