

Schools

March 2008

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next generation
learning

Getting started with your learning platform

Advice for schools



Three steps for success

Schools that are using their learning platform effectively have told us¹ that the essential elements for success are:

- 1 Having the commitment of your senior leadership team
- 2 Understanding what you want your learning platform to do for you
- 3 Ensuring appropriate and timely training and support for staff

You've probably read about the benefits a learning platform will bring to your learners, but as a teacher, what does it mean to you? It is a collection of tools that can enhance all the good things that you already do. You don't have to use all of the tools straightaway – *you* can decide which will be of most use.

“Without the vision and commitment from our Head, the learning platform wouldn't be the success it is.”

Buckingham Primary School

The first tools you are most likely to need are email and shared areas. These can help you to:

- work more flexibly, following your own preferences
- save time on photocopying, and chasing up lost work
- keep in touch with colleagues more easily
- re-use and re-purpose resources – ‘create once, use many times’
- reduce time spent planning by sharing resources.



Based on evidence from over 50 schools in England

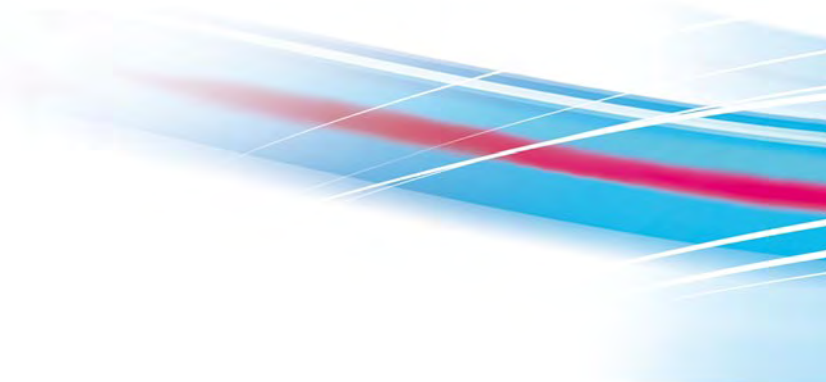
Small actions, big results

The following actions have helped other schools to get started with their learning platform. They will help you to use the tools effectively and quickly. You don't have to do all of them at once – just one of these small steps could make a big difference.

- **Putting new lesson plans and resources onto your system at a time and place that suits you.** Just imagine coming back in a year's time to find all your lessons planned and resources available, ready to adapt and improve for the new term – as well as having everything to hand when Ofsted arrives
- **Using your shared staff area to post and read notices** at any time and from anywhere, in school or at home. This reduces the use of paper, shortens staff meetings and ensures that everyone is kept up to date.
- **Using email to send and receive homework** – no more excuses from your learners that it 'got lost' or was 'eaten by the dog'!
- **Saving time, postage and production costs** by using email or online communication with parents: at last you can be certain that your message gets delivered, not left in the bottom of a backpack!

“Initially, when schools start to use the systems, there is no way of knowing what will emerge by way of good and effective practice.”

Kippax Greenfield Primary School



- **Streamlining administration tasks** such as start-of-day parents' messages handled by the 'virtual switchboard'.
- **Managing your timetable, diary, email and discussions** within your own personal web-space.
- **Making resources, worksheets and presentations immediately available to your students** by loading them into the shared work spaces.

"I would advise people to dip their toe in the water and get going as soon as they can..."

Queen Elizabeth School, Cumbria

"The longest process was getting my head around what I wanted to do, once I'd done that the actual setting up of the thing was quite easy..."

Queen Elizabeth School, Cumbria



Links

Next Generation Learning

www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Learning platform and management information online community

Visit our online community, where you can comment on proposals, discuss issues and share your experiences of learning platforms and management information.

<http://collaboration.becta.org.uk/community/personalisedlearning/learningplatforms>

Becta – Learning platforms

www.becta.org.uk/schools/personalisinglearning

“The Leeds Learning Platform is already making a huge impact and the benefits to school life are already evident. Students love contributing to the discussion forums, being able to access their work at home, and now have their own personal area that they can contribute to and customise.”

Kippax Greenfield Primary School

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