

ICT Case Study



“We liked the OCR qualification anyway. It just seemed a nice course to teach, a course that students could achieve something in. And we liked the way the course was structured as well.”



Plantsbrook School
Sutton Coldfield

Number of students: 1298

Key Feedback

- Plantsbrook runs OCR Nationals for reasonably able students who have just missed out on the GCSE grades they need to go on to college, university or the school's sixth form.
- **Inclusive** – The qualification is available to less able students at key stage 4. These students enjoy the course just as much as more able students. Many are working towards merits and distinctions, and both groups really appreciate the second chance they get to progress further with their education.
- **Confidence-building** – Students know from past students that they have a good chance of succeeding with their OCR Nationals and feel confident they can achieve the same.
- **Greater opportunity** – A lot of students have gone on to university as a result. Without the OCR Nationals they would almost certainly have missed the opportunity.
- **Flexibility** – Teachers at Plantsbrook like the flexibility of OCR Nationals, and the flexibility the qualifications give to students. It makes planning and delivering lessons much easier.
- **Individuality** – Students love the way they can deliver their work and demonstrate their learning in all sorts of different ways.
- OCR Nationals let staff work as facilitators, not just teachers, which is very satisfying.
- **Relevance** – OCR Nationals are highly vocational. The resulting business and university links make things really interesting for students.

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OCR
Nationals

Individual Talent – National Success

ICT Case Study

“A number of students have then gone on to university so OCR Nationals has given them the footing and the foundation.”

Mr K Jackson, Head of Business and Enterprise
Plantsbrook School



OCR Nationals ICT – providing our students with greater opportunity for advancement

Plantsbrook school has been running OCR nationals since the qualifications launched in 2003. They've been happy right from the start, for two key reasons. One, OCR Nationals deliver the flexibility students need to enjoy learning, and the flexibility teachers need to actually facilitate learning. Two, OCR Nationals give pupils with a broad range of abilities a second chance to enjoy further education.

A positive learning experience

OCR Nationals students enjoy presenting evidence of their learning in a variety of ways. Depending on their learning style, they can provide teachers with evidence via interactive role play, computer-generated presentations, traditional written documents and more, using an array of exciting materials and media.

Teachers appreciate the flexibility too, getting real satisfaction from being able to facilitate learning rather than simply teaching.

Opening the door to further education

Imagine the frustration of just missing the GCSE results you need to go on to sixth form, college or university. Plantsbrook pupils don't fall through the net because OCR Nationals give borderline students another stab at further education. The same goes for less able students, who also welcome the opportunity to prove themselves and aim higher.

Qualification Overview

ICT Nationals aim to:

- Develop learners' skills, knowledge and understanding – with special relevance to jobs in ICT.
- Enable progression to further education programmes or occupational training, enter employment or enhance their current employment status.
- Develop a learner's ability to work autonomously and effectively.
- Enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of ICT.
- Promote interaction between employers, centres and learners.

Features include: centre-assessed and externally moderated by OCR; no timetabled exams; candidates complete units at a time that suits the centre; grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Level 1, 2 and 3 – eligible for funding under the Learning and Skills Council.

For other OCR Nationals qualifications, see our website.

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