

RAISING STANDARDS AND GROWING TALENT IN HULL

Kelvin Hall reap the benefits of PET-Xi's enthusiasm, dynamism and energy



About the school

Kelvin Hall School is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive academy school, serving a mixed neighbourhood to the West of Hull. It is of above average size with plenty of room for its 1,450 pupils to learn both inside and outside the classroom. It has state-of-the-art technology with excellent facilities, as well as breakout zones so pupils can engage in group work and independent learning throughout the school day.

Ofsted judged it as 'Outstanding' in every category at their last inspection in February 2015. In particular, the inspectors praised the systems the school had put in place to monitor student progress and provide; "Highly accurate and timely information.....Accurate analysis of this information enables the school to act quickly to remedy any small, temporary drop in standards."

In addition, her Majesty's Chief Inspector at that time, Michael Wilshaw, said: "There are schools who are bucking the trend and transforming secondary schools across the North. Take..... Kelvin Hall School in Hull, a school in a challenging area that has been turned around by inspired and determined leadership."

The challenge

The school is very proud of its success in ensuring that by the time pupils leave they are armed with the necessary skills and have the high-quality qualifications to enter further education, employment and training. Staff are always looking to engage with educational initiatives, which enable all groups of learners at the school to succeed.

Kelvin Hall School has worked with a number of external agencies in the past to meet the different learning styles of their Year 11 pupils. However, the most consistent and successful approach has been the collaborative work with PET-Xi in Maths in the last five years.

With changes to the curriculum and new GCSE specifications coming in, the school wanted to pull out all the stops to give their learners the best possible opportunity





Left: Kelvin Hall students celebrate on GCSE results day. Right: Claire Grandidge - Senior Director for Raising Standards

for exam success, as Claire Grandidge, Senior Director for Raising Standards, explains: "This exam series was a challenging time for all schools. There were no past papers. We had no idea about grade boundaries and we didn't know what a new grade 4 or a grade 5 would look like."

The solution

Kelvin Hall used PET-Xi to run a five-day full-time High-5 Maths GCSE revision programme for two groups and a three-day course for students low in confidence in Maths, as close as possible to the time of the exams. The intensive courses cover the most important topics and teach exam techniques. The pace is fast, expectations are high and PET-Xi promise a minimum of 70% of pupils will improve by at least one grade. They achieve this by having a high staff ratio and instilling the young people with a belief and confidence in their ability to succeed.

"I can't say for definite what made the difference to results, but PET-Xi with their enthusiasm, dynamism and energy has certainly promoted a positive approach and outcomes to maths," said Claire.

One young student who had always lacked confidence in his ability in Maths asked if he could join the five-day group after doing the three-day course. He said: "I didn't believe I could do a full day in Maths, never mind three full days, but it's been really helpful and given me a real belief I can do well."

The results

Kelvin Hall was delighted when every single student improved on their predicted result by at least one grade. "With the high ratio of staff to pupils, all learners have support," said Claire. "The PET-Xi approach is strong on praise and rewards, so the students are very motivated. Next year we will be looking to expand into the EBacc subjects, not necessarily just for Maths. I would recommend PET-Xi to schools."

