Shoreham College

Case Study
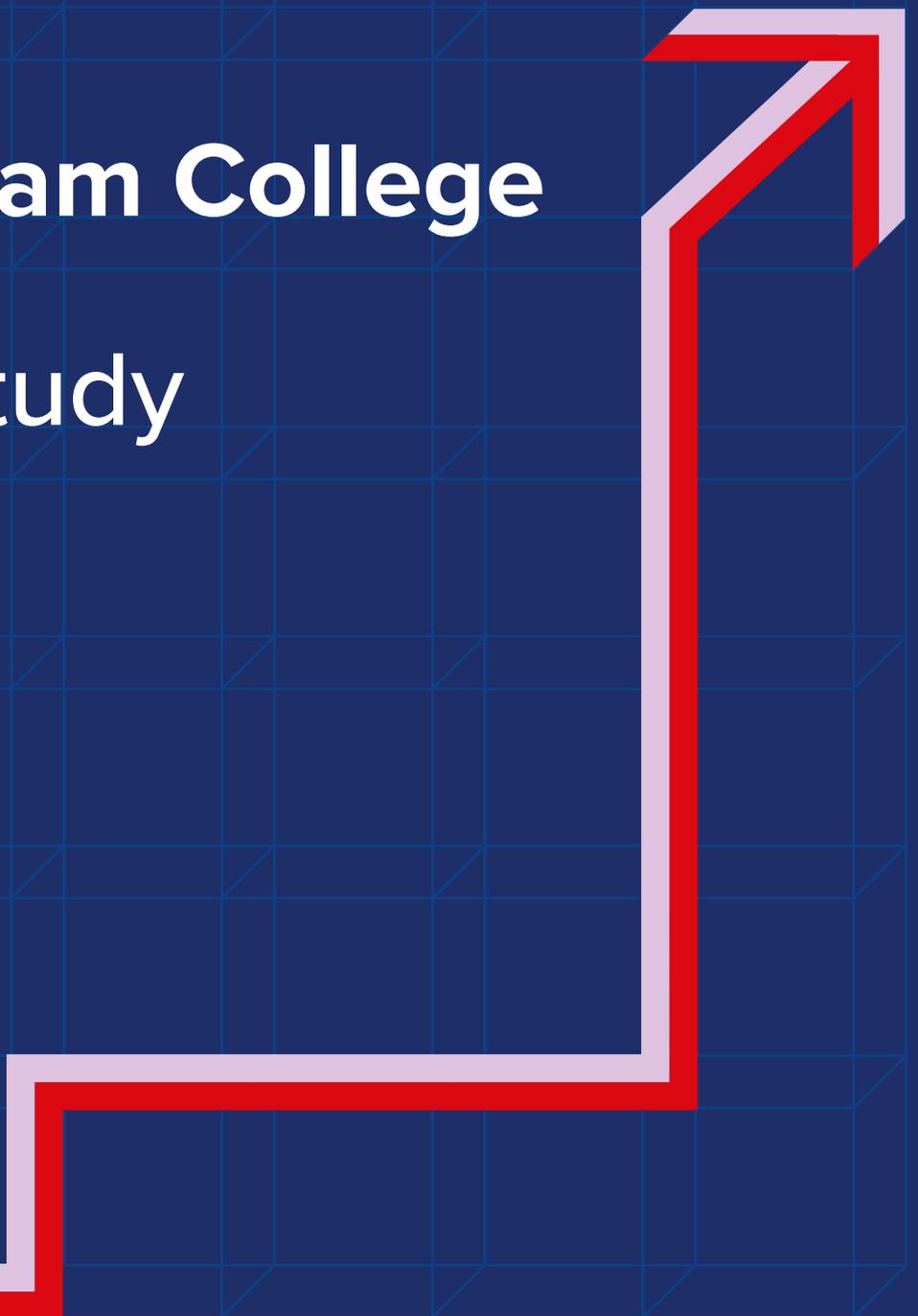
Teacher: Sue Iliffe-Cohen

Role: Librarian

Product in Use: Achieve3000

Shoreham College FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3-16

Background

Shoreham College, an independent school in West Sussex, caters for learners from ages 3 through to 16, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every pupil is valued. With a broad curriculum, it has a student body of approximately 330 students.

Shoreham College have used Achieve3000 since 2019, integrating it into the curriculum for students in Years 5–6 and additionally in Years 7–9, with a specific focus on developing their reading and comprehension skills.

Sue Iliffe-Cohen is the Librarian at the College, working alongside teaching staff and students alike to bolster engagement.

Objectives

Sue shared that Achieve3000 was implemented at the school with the ultimate goal of looking to enhance students' ability to draw out information effectively, ensuring they were well-equipped for GCSE-level work.

> "We wanted to enable students with really good skills at extracting information so that when they got to GCSE level, they would be fully competent in that area. We felt that was one way Achieve3000 would be able to help and support our learners."

Sue also highlighted that the incorporation of Achieve3000 into English lessons aimed to build a strong foundation in the subject while fostering an appreciation for non-fiction reading. The platform was also leveraged as a tool for homework and preparation.

Implementation and Training

Reflecting on the process of setting Achieve3000 up at the school, Sue spoke to the suite of training sessions they held to ensure a smooth onboarding process for both staff and students. "We held training sessions for the teachers, followed by more in-depth

training for Heads of Departments," she said, sharing that there is also an annual induction programme in place for Year 7 students, while Year 8 and 9 students watch training videos to familiarize themselves with the platform.

Integration into the Curriculum

Sue spoke to how Achieve3000 is folded into the teaching programmes at the college. "For Years 7–9, it's embedded weekly into their English lessons," she commented.

"Each session begins with students accessing the platform to view their assigned articles. The Librarian plays an active role in highlighting relevant materials, and a structured discussion accompanies the reading."

Termly, the school recognizes student achievements through a newsletter and reward incentives. Additionally, Achieve3000 data is analyzed and shared with parents during parent-teacher meetings to track progress.

Data and Functionality

Sue spoke about the data analytics that is available in the Achieve3000 platform. The college uses it to monitor student progress and enhance their learning experience.

"I always use the data and I also use the student reports and analysis on the achievement. I pull out the data so we know if they're progressing. I look at the Lexile changes once a term, too."

This data-driven approach allows staff to provide targeted support, ensuring students stay on track with their literacy development.

Impact on Student Engagement and Outcomes

Sue shared that the platform has had a transformative effect, particularly on disengaged students.

> "We saw in the Year 9 class a number of learners who were quite disengaged, after they started using Achieve, they got so competitive with each other, we noticed that they were really motivated."

After noticing the improvement, Sue highlighted that the teaching team then wanted to continue to support the students. "We spent time finding them the most relevant and relatable articles and they absolutely loved it."

"By selecting articles that resonate with students, we saw their engagement levels increase dramatically."

Sue explained that she also saw students supporting each other more and more in their learning. Keen to motivate them as much as possible, the school's proactive approach extended to them purchasing additional reading materials based on student interests that they could gauge from Achieve3000, further fostering a reading culture.

Another highlight from Sue's perspective is the platform's capacity to support learners across all ability levels:
- Lower-ability students enjoy the instant feedback and recognition of their progress.
- Higher-ability students appreciate the challenge posed by the articles and the reward system, which incentivizes high performance.

Incentivization

The school has tied a reward system to their use of Achieve3000, too. Sue commented that this has been instrumental in maintaining student motivation.

> "We have a reward system where students who score over a certain amount get entered into a draw to win prizes. To see them wanting to get into the draw – and it's a genuine want – they're really helping their own literacy skills through that."

Student Feedback and Future Plans

The school has observed positive student reactions to the platform, with students enjoying the ability to track their achievements and engage with interesting content.

"Just seeing how they engage, I can see they really like it. They see their achievement and they're seeing articles that are interesting to them."

Looking ahead, the school is considering allowing students to select their own articles more frequently to increase engagement further.

Recommendation

Sue shared that she would happily recommend Achieve3000, commenting that she has used other programmes but enjoys the flexibility the platform offers. "The way you can assign programmes, the way you can use it at subject level or use it generally, and the fact there are such a wide range of articles that the students find interesting is great."

The ability to track Lexile growth and engage in targeted discussions based on student data makes the platform a valuable tool in the school's literacy development strategy.

"The platform also looking monthly at the Lexile growth is such a reason to celebrate."

For Shoreham College, Achieve3000 has proven to be a highly effective tool for enhancing student engagement with reading and literacy outcomes. With its tailored content, data-driven insights, and flexible approach, the platform has not only bolstered students' reading and comprehension skills but also motivated them to take ownership of their learning, setting a strong foundation for future academic success.

achieve3000.com/learning-solutions/international-literacy/

McGraw Hill is a leading global education company that partners with millions of educators, learners and professionals around the world. Recognising their diverse needs, we build trusted content, flexible tools and powerful digital platforms to help them achieve success on their own terms. Through our commitment to equity, accessibility and inclusion, we foster a culture of belonging that respects and reflects the diversity of the communities, learners and educators we serve. McGraw Hill has over 40 offices across North America, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and South America, and makes its learning solutions for PreK–12, higher education, professionals and others available in more than 80 languages.