

Chessbrook Education Support Centre

tuté story

Context

Based in southwest Hertfordshire, Chessbrook Education Support Centre (ESC) is a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which provides a rich and engaging education experience for children and young people who struggle with mainstream education. There are many reasons why students might need time out of mainstream schooling, from mental and physical health issues to behavioural challenges. Chessbrook provides short-term education support for these students which gives them the skills and confidence to thrive in their learning.

Chessbrook at a glance:

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|  Location: Watford |  Pupils on role: 1,932 |  Phase: Primary & Secondary |  Key stage: 1 - 4 |
|  Products used: Tute Go, Virtual School & Courses |  Ofsted Judgement: Outstanding (2018) | | |

Tute's purpose

As a PRU, Chessbrook often supports students who have had negative experiences in mainstream schools. Many of these children are not ready for a full curriculum timetable, and just being in a physical classroom setting can be distressing. In the past, Chessbrook was reliant on physical home learning packs for students who couldn't attend lessons in person, which involved lots of paper, planning and printing. In addition to being an inefficient system for teachers, sending paper packs home wasn't the most effective way of engaging students, and made it difficult for teachers to keep track of their progress and achievements.

Chessbrook has been working with Tute since 2016 and during that time they have delivered almost 5000 lessons to nearly 200 students. The intent behind the use of Tute was to create a virtual curriculum offer that was able to quickly provide education to those students who are unable to access the centre. This curriculum also enables Chessbrook to be able to provide students with access to subjects which they do not deliver at the centre. Chessbrook's Key Stage 4 classroom offers GCSE English, Maths and Science lessons every day, five days per week and are easily accessed by students from a laptop or other device, wherever they might log in from. The lessons are monitored by staff based at Chessbrook and are subject to the same levels of monitoring as those taught at the centre.

Chessbrook's perspective

"Tute's fully safeguarded lessons are great as they offer a balanced, high-quality curriculum in a set timetable, which provides essential structure and routine for our students. The lessons are delivered in the Tute Learning Cloud, so we can easily see if pupils have logged in and completed a lesson, monitor their progress and identify any issues with attendance, which is useful both from a learning and safeguarding perspective.

"Additionally, the curriculum planning is exemplary and is certainly one of the many reasons Tute has remained our platform of choice. I really would say it is the best provision on offer in the UK. The Tute teachers are all highly-qualified and enthusiastic professionals, and the whole curriculum is pre-planned by Tute so I can check in to see what each pupil's timetable is for the coming weeks at any point. This helps me to easily see how they are progressing. This has also eased the pressure of lessons planning for teachers."

"Tute were amazing during Covid-19 - I believe Tute were the leading provision out there for remote learning. Since many of our students were already learning from home with Tute, they could continue their lessons as normal during lockdown which was a great relief.

"The Tute team then contacted us two weeks before school closures to help us switch to remote learning across our wider curriculum. Tute provided training for me and other teachers to further prepare us for teaching and coordinating school from home, using the Tute platform. Understandably, some of our teachers were nervous about delivering lessons on a screen. However, once they realised how straightforward the Tute platform is to use, and the ease of uploading PowerPoints and setting activities, they felt more at ease. As a result, our transition was seamless and we went from school closing on Friday to being open and teaching online by Monday morning."

"Lessons are delivered in the Tute Learning Cloud which is very interactive for students; there are chat boxes, polls, videos and image-rich content which really brings the learning to life. The Tute teachers are great at building a relationship with the students and are clearly invested in their progression, just like you would have in a conventional classroom. This really helps engage all students and offers them the best chance of success despite any learning challenges they face.

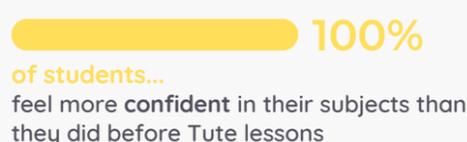
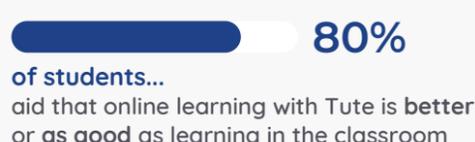
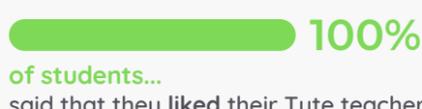
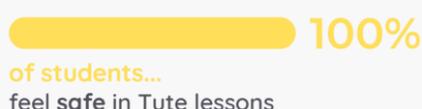
"Tute is also very adaptable and easy to use for our teachers. For example, when we chose a new science exam board, the flexibility of Tute's curriculum meant we could easily adapt and select Tute lessons to match the new exam provider."

"As a PRU, having that added capacity of quality teaching is so vitally important and the relationship we have with Tute is fantastic. Nothing is ever too much trouble for the team and they're always coming up with creative solutions to meet our students' needs. With Tute, the focus is always on doing what is best for the students."

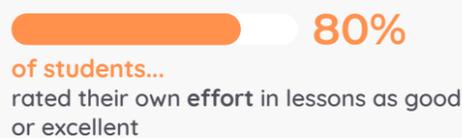
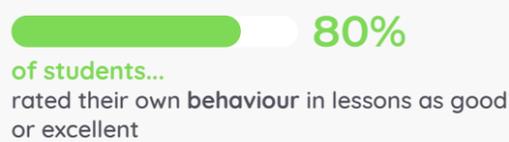
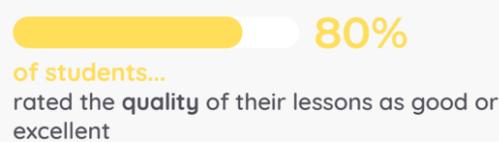
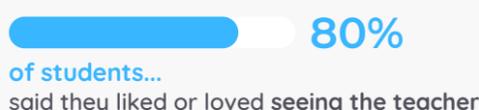
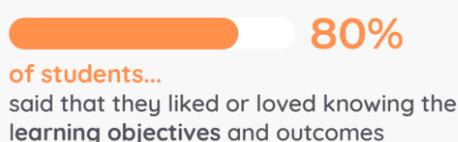
Impact:

How do students rate Tute?

Students were asked to give feedback on their provision via student voice questionnaires. These surveys showed:



Students were also asked about their favourite elements of Tute lessons:



Students said their favourite things about Tute were:

- "It's online"
- "The polls were good"
- "The whiteboard"
- "Everything is perfect"
- "The English teachers are lovely"
- "The staff are so nice"



Dan Finill
Head of Alternative Provision
Dan tells us how Tute's support was incredibly valuable during school closures