Cornwallis Academy
Tomorrow's Future Today

Overview
Country or Region: United Kingdom
Industry: Education

School Profile
Cornwallis Academy is based in the south east of the United Kingdom in Linton and became an Innovative School in 2011.

Number of Students: 1,509 (as of 2013)
Gender: Mixed
Age Range: 11–18
School Leader: David Simons
School Website:
www.futureschoolstrust.com/Cornwallis

Cornwallis Academy

Cornwallis Academy has been selected to participate in the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour for being a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

1. **Physical learning environments.** Focus on physical spaces, seating, and atmosphere to encourage collaboration, creativity, and learning.

2. **Personalized learning environments.** Use of systematic continuous assessment to change the course of student learning and for remediation.

3. **Virtual learning environments.** Use of technology to extend learning outside of the classroom.

Microsoft

All students are equipped with their own laptop, which they keep in their locker where it charges overnight. Each learning plaza displays the very latest advancements in technology, including a high-quality projector for presenting to large groups, a nine-screen video wall, and two 65-inch touchscreens that can be positioned anywhere in the space.

Cornwallis Academy website

The learning plaza at Cornwallis Academy

Physical learning environments

Cornwallis believes that to enable students to acquire 21st century skills—both cognitive and non-cognitive—a modern learning environment is necessary. Consequently, the design of the academy resembles a business environment. For example:

- Students come into one large learning space (the learning plaza) that seats up to 120 students.
- Teaching responsibilities are shared among three to four teachers who work collaboratively, allowing students to benefit from their collective experience. Cornwallis has found that teachers are happier and more productive when working with one another rather than in isolation.
- The room is designed to allow for individual work, group work, and stadium style seating. The atmosphere can be changed through lighting and projections.
- Teachers rarely lecture. Instead, the students are able to use their devices to view content and then work in groups. Due to the school's personalized learning platform that utilizes performance analytics, educators are able to identify which students need assistance, while encouraging other students to push themselves further.
- All resources are shared and the curriculum is designed so that students spend 70 percent of their time in the learning plaza and the remainder in a specialist teaching space. These include futuristic science labs; a catering suite; art, dance, and drama studios; music rooms; and a fully equipped sports hall.

Cornwallis has found that its physical learning environment has not only improved student outcomes but also reduced building costs by approximately 20 percent.

Key Technology
Technology is embedded in the building with the use of AMX (technology control device for teachers in classrooms), wireless devices, mood lighting, touchscreens, and video walls.

Personalized learning environments

Cornwallis prides itself on using a data analytics platform to understand and improve student, educator, and school performance over time (Figure 1). Data is updated on a daily basis and assessed every six weeks. The analytics platform supports a personalized environment.

As the school is a 1:1 device school, students can check their own progress in relation to attendance, achievements, and behavior through Microsoft SharePoint by looking on their "About Me" page. This has improved self-management and helped teachers to sculpt teaching in accordance with character traits.
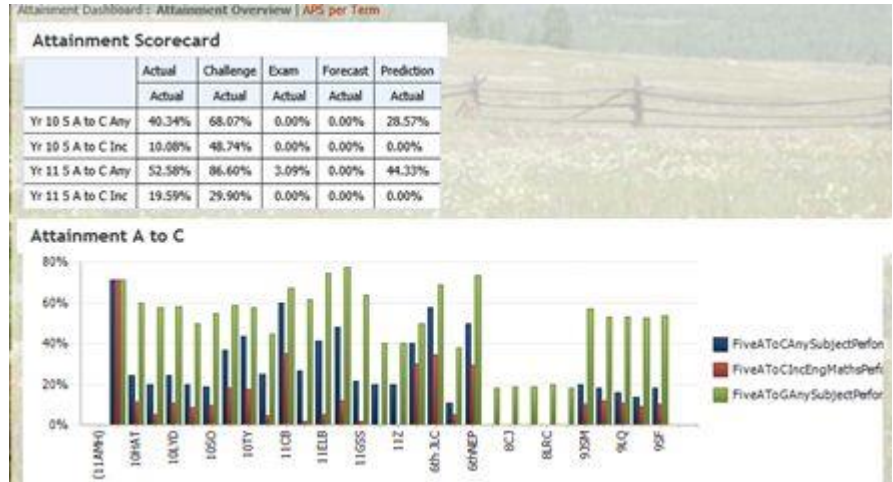
Student data is measured and analyzed, which leads to forecast and prediction outputs. Teachers are able to track individual students against goals and see forecast and prediction outputs to provide better remediation, guidance, and encouragement on a daily basis.

Teachers and students will use Microsoft Office 365 to collaborate, ask individual questions through Microsoft Lync Online, and post and access documents through SharePoint. School leaders understand relational questions between such variables like investments, teacher performance, and student outcomes.

Figure 1. Cornwallis uses a data analytics platform to understand and improve student, educator, and school performance over time.

The data analysis encourages conversations and discussions, enables better decision making, and allows teachers to personalize their teaching methods to meet the unique needs of each student.

Key Technology
Cornwallis Academy is a 1:1 device school, which tracks student information and academic progress daily.

Virtual learning environments

Cornwallis Academy students are given their own devices. When they come to class, they are greeted by their teacher, they log on to their device, and they work on their projects. When they go home, they can log on to SharePoint and access their assignments. Year 7 and 8 students complete homework projects through the Blended Learning system, which is available on multiplatform devices.

Teachers are able to communicate with students outside of the classroom with access to the Blended Learning University application, which includes lesson videos, tutorials, and live chat. Teachers run projects called "The World is Your Classroom" where the students take a day out of school and use the Blended Learning System to answer learning questions.

Key Technology
Cornwallis Academy uses Microsoft Office 365 and SharePoint to support a virtual learning environment.

Improving student outcomes

Cornwallis has seen significant improvements in both cognitive and non-cognitive assessment since incorporating technology and establishing its new learning environments. The benefits include:

- **Improved attendance, engagement, and behavior.** Students have a point system in which they either gain or lose points depending on behavior. Their points are recorded online.
- **Exam outcomes.** At GSCE level, 90 percent of students gained five A*-C grades and 58 percent achieved 5 A*-C grades, including English and Math, making Cornwallis Academy the best performing, non-selective schools in the area. At A Level, the overall pass rate was 98 percent with a third of all grades A*-A.

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:
www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx

For more information about Cornwallis Academy, visit:
www.futureschoolstrust.com/Cornwallis

Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Cornwallis focuses heavily on school leadership, goal setting and sharing, and teacher collaboration. Teachers are naturally able to share best practices through the collaborative teaching spaces.

They also have access to innovation groups and online courses. Performance management targets are based on successful use of technology in the classroom to encourage active learning and risk taking. Future Activities will include the development of a Windows 8 Plaza, including a Bing Discovery Zone.

Technology Infrastructure

LEARNER & STAFF ACCESS
Laptop/PC
Windows 7

Learning Services
Content, Homework, Assignments, Personalized Learning
SharePoint 2010 | Office | SIMS

Productivity Services
Calendar/Email, Collaboration, Portal, Presence, Video-conferences, Social
SharePoint 2010 | Office

Operations Services
Planning, HR, Finance, Procurement
SIMS | PS Financials

Analytic Services
Reporting, Insights
SIMS

INFRASTRUCTURE
Storage/Data — Windows Server 2008
Servers — SQL Server
Network — Windows Server 2008

SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
Security — McAfee
Identity — Windows Server Active Directory
Support, Monitor, & Control — impero

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