

BUSINESS BRIDGE

Case Study

Quarry View Primary School

A new IT system, developed by a University of Sunderland graduate for a Sunderland Primary school, has dramatically reduced the time taken to identify school pupils that require additional attention, significantly improved the school's performance reporting systems and enhanced the work-life balance of its teachers.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Quarry View Primary School in Pennywell, Sunderland operated a paper-based system for measuring pupil performance. This made it difficult to identify, at an early stage, pupils that required additional intervention and meant that staff were spending time outside of their normal school hours on measurement activities. As with all Schools, Quarry View also faced increasing requests for performance data from local and central governments. The School turned to the University for help to automate the process

THE SOLUTION

A short 'fact-finding' consultation was held with a member of the University's Business Development team, who suggested that this would be an ideal 'Business Bridge' project.

Business Bridge allows organisations to gain access to the university's students and new graduates to work on long or short-term projects. A project outline was developed with Quarry View Primary School and advertised by the University's Business Bridge team who pre-screened the interested applicants and sent on their Curriculum Vitae's for the School to interview. Quarry View were impressed with the standard of the candidates and MSc graduate Muhammad Khan was assigned to the project.

THE RESULT

Muhammad has developed a bespoke system for data input and analysis. The new data analysis system brings together key statistical information, such as pupils SAT tests and other assessment results, and provides a range of analytical reports.

Quarry View's headteacher, Patricia Bateley, is very pleased with the new system. She said: "It has allowed us to identify pupils that require additional support at a much earlier stage, improved the quality and reliability of the data and taken away the need for teaching staff to spend time working on the data during non-school hours. I cannot sing Muhammad's praises highly enough!

"Prior to the development of the system, we operated a paper-based system and teachers were working outside of school hours on performance measurement. This, when combined with their other non-teaching duties, encroached upon their 10 per cent planning preparation and assessment entitlement set by the Government.

"The new data analysis system has really automated the whole process. Muhammad has created a system that it is easy to use and worked with the school to install it onto our network."

As a direct result of his engagement on a previous Business Bridge project Muhammad has now taken up employment with Newcastle based manufacturing company, Metal Spinners Group Ltd.

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