

## Case Study: Conisborough College



### **A holistic, virtual learning environment in a community school.**

Conisborough College is a community school with 780 pupils aged 11 to 16 in the London Borough of Lewisham, south London. In April 2009, the school moved to a new BSF building with a high ICT specification. The head was convinced that the provision of high quality e-learning, tailored to the needs of existing and future pupils, was essential to transform the school into the best in the borough. He employed Mark Simons, an independent Fronter specialist, on a 12-month contract to create a beacon-status virtual learning environment.



**Objective:** To produce a virtual learning environment covering all areas of the curriculum, cross- and extra-curricular activity and reflecting student life.

### **The Plan**

Although Fronter has been available in the school for over four years, Mr Simons found a learning platform devoid of content. The first task was to set up an infrastructure sitting above the e-classrooms. Each subject taught in the school now has its own room hosting online courses for each year group and providing a storage area for shared interactive resources. The courses themselves are self-sustaining and unsupervised, primarily comprising internet links for independent learning delivered through Fronter's page tool. The pages are given eye-appeal through liberal use of images, buttons and animated gifs. They are easy to navigate and structurally mirror the textbooks used for each subject.



Each year group now has its own portal. The first things pupils see when they log in are the latest school news and resources relevant to them. It is a totally pupil-facing communication centre; materials that were previously circulated on paper are converted into a format that pupils can work with online. A key feature is multi-media displays of pupils' own work, with lots of photos, videos, podcasts,

slidecasts and feedback opportunities. The portals give direct access to the online courses. A unique sign-on to the school network, e-mail and Fronter makes access much easier, both at school and at home.



The MIS integration took place in September 2009, resulting in a new set of e-classrooms. After some debate about what should go on in an e-classroom, it was decided that homework blogs would improve the quality and visibility of homework. The blogs have transformed themselves into a launch pad for interactive, multi-media, real-time classroom resources, marking the first step in a transformation of teaching and learning in the school.

The twelve-month programme has now come to an end, but the Fronter learning platform's infinite possibilities mean opportunities to change the lives of pupils and teachers will never end. Conisborough College now has a core team of advanced users experimenting, advocating and embedding Fronter across the entire learning community.

Conisborough College welcomes visitors to observe its multi-media classroom delivery and welcomes representatives of schools who would like to learn from its experiences with Fronter. For more information, please contact Kim Holden, PA to the head teacher, on 020 8461 9617.

