

Academy 21
The Online Alternative Provision Experts

24/25
Prospectus



Welcome to Academy21

The UK's leading online alternative provision specialists

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school. We have developed our high-quality, cost-effective alternative provision in direct response to the needs of local authorities, schools, and the young people we support. For us, partnership is key. Through flexible programmes and excellent teaching, we bring a balance of pastoral support, academic challenge, and educational engagement to students with a broad range of needs.

We focus on improving student confidence, supporting the work of our partners and ultimately helping schools and local authorities to reintegrate children back into education. I am incredibly proud of our work and the fantastic people that work here. I am even more proud of our DfE accredited status, a sign of our quality and intent to help change the outcomes of vulnerable students across the country.

We can help your students who are too anxious to attend school, pupils who are disconnected from learning and routines or at risk of exclusion, vulnerable young people, those with chronic medical or additional needs, and many other learners facing their own unique challenges.

We can support students, whatever their needs are. Our wide range of flexible programmes are designed to help you with your specific needs, from an upstream intervention, a medium-term placement to support reintegration to a transitional placement.

With Academy21's personalised approach, we're proud to say that every partner gets the right solution, and every student is given the opportunity to progress and thrive. We hope this prospectus serves as a helpful guide to understanding Academy21 and answers any initial questions you may have about our provision. We work collaboratively with our partners, so please reach out to our team to discuss your specific needs.

Alessandro Capozzi
Executive Head



Welcome to Academy21 – the UK's leading online alternative provision	2
About us – Inspired Online Schools, Academy21, King's InterHigh	4
Why choose Academy21?	8
The benefits of online AP	10
Enhanced support services	12
How we teach	14
7 ways to use Academy21 to support your students	16
Making a world of difference: The Greenwood School Case Study	20
Reintegration	23
Our provision: courses for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	24
Key Stage 3 Curriculum	26
Key Stage 4 Curriculum	28
Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5	36
Key Stage 2 Curriculum	38
Key Stage 5 Curriculum	39
Our virtual classroom	40
Reporting and monitoring	42
Enrolment process	45
Our provision at a glance	46

Academy21 – High-quality online AP for pupils in England & Wales

Academy21 is proud to be the first online alternative provision accredited by the Department for Education.

Our mission is to give students with additional needs or challenging circumstances a pathway to achieve strong, recognised outcomes. We work collaboratively with schools, local authorities and other organisations to ensure that the students placed with us receive the education they need and deserve, with tailored timetables, the right balance of subjects and SEN or additional needs catered for.

Each year, we work with hundreds of schools and thousands of learners across more than 130 local authority areas.

Academy21 provision is an effective tool that removes barriers to education, encourages students to re-engage, build their confidence and supports reintegration. Ultimately, our provision helps schools to improve attendance and engagement.

Our provision in action:

Personalised to individual students' needs	100% live, real-time classes
Highly qualified and experienced subject-specialist teachers	Broad and consistent curriculum for Key Stage 2 to 5
User-friendly portals, plus resources, recordings, and students' reports	Personalised support for students with diverse needs, including SEN

Inspired Online Schools

Academy21 is proud to be an Inspired Online School.

Inspired Online Schools are part of Inspired Education, an international group of leading, premium schools. With over 80,000 students in over 111 schools across 24 countries. Inspired Education utilises best educational practices from every corner of the globe to ensure each student receives a first-class learning experience, from preschool to Year 13.

This strong foundation and extensive network are part of what makes Academy21 unwavering in our growth and resilience, empowering us to deliver the very best for years to come. Combining time-honoured teaching practices with modern and innovative techniques, Inspired cultivates a more dynamic, powerful approach to education.

As an Inspired Online School, Academy21 brings you the same top-tier teaching quality this group is known for. Backed by high levels of training and support, our team of skilled and experienced educators uphold the highest standards.

King's InterHigh

Academy21 customers can access Key Stage 2 and 5 curricula via our fellow Inspired online school, King's InterHigh.

With over 15 years of experience delivering unparalleled virtual education, King's InterHigh is a fully online school for students aged seven to 19. Together, Academy21 and King's InterHigh provide high quality online education to more than 7,500 learners each year.

Working together with King's InterHigh, we bring your Key Stage 5 students a vast range of A-Level subjects. Key Stage 2 pupils, meanwhile, can be accommodated with a warm learning environment and enriching curriculum.

The delivery of King's InterHigh classes is different to the alternative provision we offer at Academy21. As such, each placement should be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that we can meet the needs of each individual student.

Your Partnership Manager is on hand to advise on the differences between Academy21 and King's InterHigh, including which approach will be best suited for your students.

// I started studying at Academy21 in February of year ten and the benefits were pretty much immediate for me. My attendance went up to 100%. I was interacting with classmates and with teachers, either via the chat or verbally, and that was really nice to be able to get back into the more social aspects. Academy21 meant that I was able to get the core GCSEs that I needed so that I was able to move on with my education and eventually, go on to university and get my degree. I know that I wouldn't have been able to do it without the foundation that Academy21 gave me. They gave me hope back into my education and a drive to continue forward with it.

Katy

Former Academy21 Student



Why choose Academy21?

Academy21 is proud to be the UK's leading provider of live, online, alternative provision. We pride ourselves in the quality of our teaching and the tailored support we provide to students across England and Wales.

DfE Accredited

As the first online alternative provision to be accredited by the Department for Education, we are the trusted experts in online alternative provision. This accreditation, which followed a rigorous quality assurance process, validates the quality of our provision and our fully live and adaptive teaching.

Safeguarding and student wellbeing

The safety and wellbeing of our learners are our highest priority, so we are committed to protecting every young person we support. We provide a secure environment and take careful steps to ensure everyone feels supported, including:

Enhanced DBS for every member of staff (including support staff); Regular safeguarding training for all staff and experienced DSLs; Strict teacher recruitment processes; Custom-built, secure platforms for all our lessons;

“There is a driven focus on providing the best online provision possible for the pupils they serve. This extends to all aspects of Academy21’s work, including the quality of teaching and safeguarding.”

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2024

Education on safety and welfare included in our curriculum.

See all our policies [here](#). For details of our SCR, please speak to your Partnership Manager.

“Pupils are closely supervised by staff at all times. Staff are kept fully informed of the vulnerabilities and needs of the pupils they teach in each class. This means they are highly attuned to pupils’ needs and the provider’s records show they routinely flag and concerns to leaders.”

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2024

Re-engage, build confidence, reintegrate

Our fantastic teachers are subject specialists and have extensive experience teaching students who may have vulnerabilities or need additional support. All teachers are fully qualified and DBS checked, and they also have additional training and experience of teaching in fully virtual environments.

Teachers deliver adaptive lessons that are 100% live, creating an immersive, engaging environment that fosters communication and student interaction. This approach builds students’ confidence and helps them work towards reintegration. Ultimately, our approach gets students back to the point where attendance improves, often dramatically. In our student survey over 91% of students report feeling more confident in their learning thanks to Academy21.

Partnership Approach

When you partner with Academy21, we work with you to create a tailored approach for your students’ specific needs. Our dedicated regional teams offer unparalleled customer service to schools and local authorities, lightening their workload when they need it.

“The success of this (live teaching) approach is reflected in the feedback we obtained from both parents and school mentors who all highlighted the personal qualities that teachers bring to their lessons which encourage pupils to engage (and often re-engage) in learning.”

“Teachers establish a positive learning environment, welcoming pupils into class by name and encouraging them throughout lessons. This has a demonstrable impact on improving pupils’ confidence and readiness to learn. Pupils’ attendance improves, and evidence shows that the approaches taken enable pupils to make progress and, in many cases, successfully reintegrate back into their school or other educational placements.”

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2024

“Schools and local authorities value the quality of the information received about pupils they place at Academy21. They praise the responsiveness of the service.”

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2024

The benefits of online AP



Flexible location

Because Academy21 lessons are fully online, our provision can be accessed from anywhere – including students' own school settings. Schools can also use Academy21 within their own inclusion units, so their students access our live online lessons on-site and can benefit from our personalised support and high-quality education without having to physically leave their school.



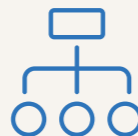
Tailored support

Online AP can fit in around school timetables and be tailored to suit individual learners' needs. Ongoing monitoring and reporting, and regular communication with a designated staff member in the education setting, means that provision can be adapted as needed.



Continuity of provision

Online AP can be implemented as a short-term solution or can be used to support pupils for much longer periods of time. Some students in particular need the stability that this type of solution can offer while experiencing periods of change or upheaval in their personal lives.



Organisation and administration

Online AP can be used to support learners at any time in the academic year. Students can join part way through a year and continue their education with us. Academy21 manages the enrolment process and builds timetables to suit each learner's needs.



Standard of teaching

No matter where a student is based, they are able to access the same high-quality content. All students, regardless of location, attend classes delivered by experienced, fully qualified teachers who are subject specialists. This consistency of quality can be particularly useful for larger organisations who use Academy21 for pupils who would usually attend different schools, in different locations.



Reporting and monitoring

Schools and local authorities can keep track of their AP students via online reporting and monitoring systems. Data can be easily accessed relating to attendance, engagement and progress.



A partnered approach

Working together with Academy21 ensures that pupils continue to receive academic support while away from the school grounds. In many cases, this partnership approach can aid the reintegration of the learner back into mainstream education.



Enhanced support services

At Academy21, we provide a comprehensive and inclusive experience that is designed to support the needs of our students.



Our lessons, portals and systems have inclusivity and accessibility built in. However, we understand that some students may require additional, specialised support to thrive.

Our enhanced support services are comprised of academic and wellbeing courses. All are taught by our specialist team of counsellors and practitioners who are experienced in delivering these inclusive services.

Courses are bookable in blocks of 10 academic weeks (except the Wellbeing Mentoring course, which includes 10 sessions over 5 weeks). Each weekly 40-minute lesson can be scheduled flexibly within the school day. There are regular formative assessments and/or feedback on progress and the commissioning organisation receives a personalised progress report at the end of each 10-week cycle.

Academic support

Our academic support courses are available for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and equip students with vital study skills for school, further education, and life beyond the classroom.

- EAL support
- Literacy support
- Numeracy support
- KS4 Maths support

Wellbeing support

At Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, our wellbeing courses empower young people to take control of their mental health, become self-advocates and create a happier foundation for learning and life. Our range of courses give students the skills they need to thrive in, and beyond, school.

- Anxiety management
- Social skills
- One-to-one counselling
- Wellbeing mentoring

How we teach

We are firm believers in the transformative power of education and the value of an integrated and holistic pedagogy.

One of our key priorities is supporting students' personal development and emotional and physical wellbeing. Aside from our high-quality, DfE-accredited education, we have a range of support tools and methods on offer for students to improve their wellbeing, develop their personal skills, and succeed in all aspects of life.

Virtual classrooms and lesson libraries

- Classes are held on Adobe Connect, an industry leading online platform.
- All lessons at Academy21 are in real-time, which helps create a truly immersive environment for students.
- Students communicate by talking, typing, and writing on virtual whiteboards and in dedicated chat pods with their teachers.
- Engaging lesson content differentiated to each individual's abilities and needs.
- Full content lesson library available 24/7 to support learning and aid exam revision.

InspiredAI

- Our Inspired AI platform provides tailored activities to extend students beyond their current level and provide real time feedback.
- Live lessons are complemented with pathways of short, engaging tasks that adapt to the needs of the learner.
- All students have access to a fully supported, personalised programme of work which is novel and challenging.
- Working through tasks gives students a sense of accomplishment while in-built diagnostic assessments inform our teaching.

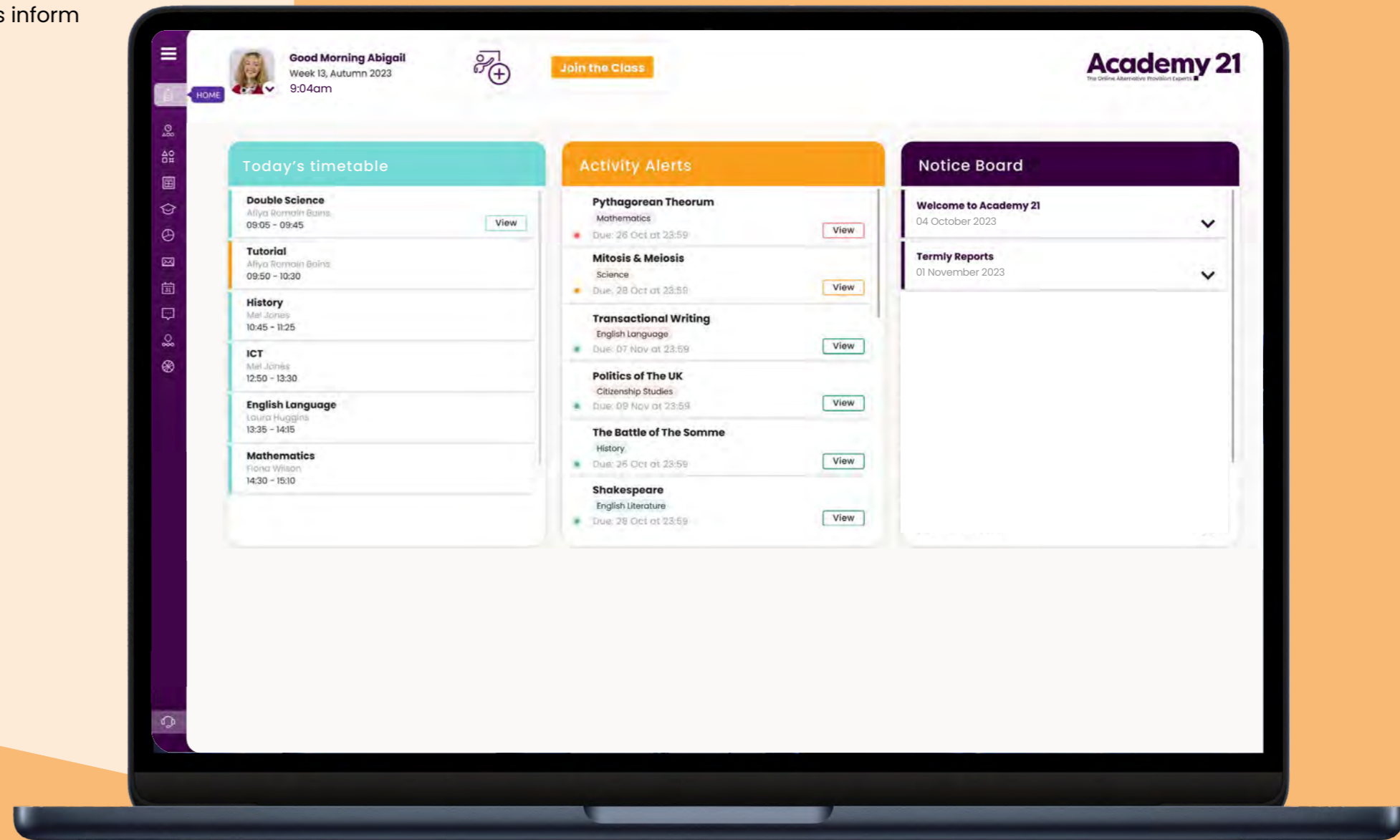
Qualified and experienced teachers

- Led by an experienced team including our Executive Head, Heads of School and subject leaders.
- Highly qualified, subject specialist teachers, experienced in teaching online and supporting students with diverse needs.
- Safer recruitment and selection processes, with single central register available on request.

[View our recruitment and safeguarding policies here.](#)

Progress reporting

- Weekly sessions to close learning gaps, with one-on-one and small group sessions available.
- Regular assessments and extension activities, submitted and stored through our online systems.
- Differentiated instruction based on teacher analysis of assessment outcomes.
- Progress reports available to view at any time online.



7 ways to use Academy21 to support your students

01 Early intervention and reintegration

Online AP is a great tool to support your students before they become completely disengaged from their learning. With Academy21, students get the support they need to maintain a consistent schedule, develop positive learning habits, and stay engaged.

We offer short-term access to our learning platform, so students can attend lessons via the Academy21 portal. This process can break the cycle of poor behaviour, reduce the risk of exclusion and long-term school avoidance, and help students re-engage with their learning.

We offer a broad curriculum for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, along with support courses for wellbeing and study skills. Respite can be offered at all Key Stages, but our Partnership Managers find it especially successful for year 11 students before the GCSE exam season.

With Academy21, students get the support they need to maintain a consistent schedule, develop positive learning habits, and build up to reintegration back into lessons.

03 Medical needs and transition

We recognise medical conditions can interrupt learning, so we offer education continuity via fully flexible learning. Our online provision can be implemented to fit around the restrictions that medical conditions may place on continued learning. Because all lessons are online, all students need is a broadband connection and computer, so they can access our classes from the most suitable location to support their learning and re-engagement.

Plus, if students need to miss a class due to medical appointments, they can access library lessons and activities, so they never miss out on their learning.

02 GCSE Rescue

It's not too late for your pupils to catch up and achieve solid results in their core GCSE subjects. Our popular GCSE Rescue courses are designed to cover essential content and prepare students for exams in a condensed timeframe.

GCSE Rescue is perfect for pupils who may be disengaged, at risk of exclusion, Emotionally Based School Avoiders (EBSA), or medically vulnerable. Our unique blend of 100% live, interactive lessons, revision and skill sessions, and personalised support helps students get back on track.

You can enrol your students at any time throughout the year. However, the sooner your students start with us, the better, for improved outcomes at an affordable price point.

Though our classes are small, students attend online classes alongside other learners, ensuring they continue to develop their confidence and communication skills in a small group setting.

Our service can be implemented as a short-term solution and can support much longer periods where there is a complex medical condition preventing attendance. The provision is fully portable, so can follow learners wherever they are receiving medical treatment, if it is appropriate to do so. This provides some continuity in their life when they are coping with the stress, anxiety and the physical impact that their medical condition places on them.



04 Capacity challenges

When children move between local authorities or encounter long waiting lists for specialist services, they can find themselves without access to education. Equally, schools may be dealing with teacher recruitment shortages or lack specialist teachers for a specific GCSE or A-Level subject.

Academy21 can support in these instances by providing consistent, high-quality, accessible provision to individual students or entire classes. We offer a streamlined enrolment process to enable students to transition smoothly into our online environment.

With engaging, 100% live lessons across a broad curriculum, we ensure pupils get the continuity with education they need while waiting for a permanent or physical school placement.

Alongside expert teaching, our small class sizes and personalised attention to wellbeing create a supportive atmosphere where young people can thrive despite the challenges they face. Our comprehensive provision is suitable for students with diverse needs, including SEN, giving every child the opportunity to make progress with their learning.

05 Fixed-term exclusions

No matter why a young person has been excluded from school, providing them with high-quality education in the meantime is crucial. Academy21's comprehensive solution for excluded pupils provides interim support from day six through to governing body hearings, with a seamless transition to longer-term provision if needed.

With rapid enrolment and flexible timetabling, we can onboard your pupils into our online classes in as little as 48 hours. Our experienced teachers deliver engaging, 100% live lessons that meet students' needs and maintain their excellent educational opportunities throughout their exclusion.

06 6th day requirements

Securing interim provision from the sixth day of a pupil's exclusion can be challenging, but it's crucial – both for meeting statutory requirements and for minimising disruption to learning. Academy21's short-stay school is a rapid, seamless solution for students on fixed-term or permanent exclusions.

With Academy21, your pupils get a six-week alternative provision timetable delivered via 100% live lessons in small class sizes. Plus, our subject-expert teachers are experienced in working with excluded students.

Available for Key Stages 3 and 4, our short stay provision is available for a range of course options, from GCSE classes to functional skills courses.

Fast-track enrolment gets your students into online lessons within 48 hours and supports them through to their governing body hearings or longer if needed – all with no lengthy commitments.

07 GCSE recovery

We know the unique challenges post-16 students face when retaking their GCSEs. With their confidence knocked, many post-16 students struggle to return to GCSE classes and resit their core exams.

Give your students another chance of success with Academy21's GCSE resit courses: expert teaching in a stigma-free, supportive environment.

Our one-year GCSE resit courses are designed to equip your students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be as prepared as they can be to sit GCSE exams confidently and achieve the best exam results they can.

We offer comprehensive one-year courses in all core subjects: GCSE English language, mathematics, and science. Our teachers ensure that students are fully prepared for their exams, but also motivated to continue learning and sharpening their skills.

Our lessons are 100% live and interactive and can be seamlessly integrated into your school's schedule – all with affordable, flexible pricing.

Making a World of Difference:

The Greenwood School Case Study

Based in Southampton, Greenwood School supports students with behavioural issues, those who feel overwhelmed or unsafe at school, and those dealing with physical or mental health challenges. They also cater to pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) awaiting placements in special schools. Some students had disengaged from education entirely, with attendance rates at zero percent.

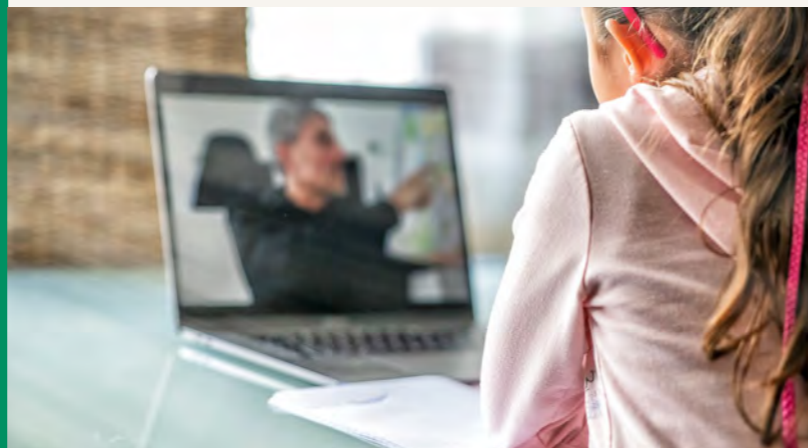
The Challenge: **Overcoming barriers to education**

The school needed high-quality learning provisions for students unable to access traditional education for various reasons. This provision needed to be easily accessible and personalised to meet students' unique needs. Aside from the curriculum component, it was crucial that this provider focused not just on supporting academic continuity, but students' mental health and confidence in education.

Implementing Academy21

Greenwood School partnered with Academy21 in 2021. "Implementing the Academy21 provision for learners is incredibly easy!" says Tom, Assistant Headteacher at Greenwood School. Most students access their learning from home, with the school providing laptops as needed. Each learner is assigned a key worker who assists with enrolment, monitors wellbeing, engagement, and lesson suitability, and addresses barriers to mainstream education.

Tom and Michelle, who to lead the Greenwood Off-site Learning Provision programme (GOLP), emphasise the importance of flexibility and communication in successfully implementing online alternative provisions. Academy21 quickly adapts to changing student needs, setting up online learning programmes at lightning speed – in some cases, overnight – to get children back into education.



Michelle tells us that a student experiencing high levels of anxiety might start with one session per week, gradually increasing the number of sessions as their confidence grows.

Eventually, they may even take additional subjects. Adjusting lesson levels to suit individual needs is another strength of Academy21, crucial for students that are referred to the GOLP programme and may not have the most accurate attainment data, therefore needing adjustments.

The legacy and impacts of COVID-19 have increased the number of children experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), boosting demand for offsite learning.

"A lot of learners lost a lot of learning time and are comfortable at home now, so it's not an easy cycle to break. Academy21 provision reinstates routines children have missed; it gives children a timetable and some structure, providing a school-like experience even if they are unable to be in school."

Life-long impacts

The positive impact of Academy21 is often immediate. One Year 11 pupil with significant medical needs returned to his studies after just a few weeks, fitting his learning around medical appointments and remaining on track for his GCSEs. Another learner who had been out of education for a long time moved up two maths classes using Academy21. Tom adds that this made a huge difference to his overall outlook on his education.

"Academy21 has been a lifesaver for our learners. When we have visited learners in their homes, we've seen how grateful they are for the support and the opportunities that have been opened up for them."

Academy21 has significantly improved attendance figures for Greenwood School and its feeder schools, particularly for EBSA pupils. A six-week cycle of lessons can re-establish routines and prepare students for full-time reintegration into school. Greenwood School also uses Academy21 as a reintegration solution, helping students who have been out of school for months to rebuild necessary routines and mindsets.



Why Greenwood school continues to use Academy21



Quality of teaching and learning

The teachers build a great rapport with the learners; students at Greenwood School often comment on how friendly the teachers are, how they check on their wellbeing and progress and how they make them feel at ease during the online sessions.

Reporting and monitoring

The lesson-by-lesson feedback from Academy21 teachers about students and weekly reports provide Tom and his team with information about students' engagement levels and attainment.

The half-termly reports are detailed and informative. Michelle shares these with the feeder schools, and together they can assess progress and plan the next steps for individuals.

Mental health and wellbeing

The positive impact on the wellbeing of the individuals who are supported by Academy21 is clear to Tom and his team.

"Academy21 builds confidence where there was no confidence. It builds back positive relationships with teachers, as well. Students are aware that their Academy21 teacher genuinely cares about them."

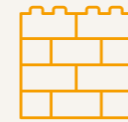
Tom also tells us that Academy21 opens up possibilities for learners but also helps change the mindsets of some parents. Parents may also be disengaged with education and may have lost faith in their child being able to achieve academically. Working alongside Academy21, Greenwood School is changing mindsets, opening doors, and restoring self-belief in their learners.

"We can't speak highly enough about what Academy21 are able to offer."

[Read the full case study here.](#)

Reintegration

4 ways Academy21 enables students' reintegration into their traditional school environment.



01 Personalised learning

We take into account students' needs, abilities, and goals to tailor effective learning approaches and ensure that each student receives the appropriate level of support. From helping them catch up on missed work, or addressing a specific learning weakness or subject, our highly experienced teachers are all available and keen to support. This way, students can rebuild their confidence in their skills and learning abilities, and reintegrate into mainstream school more smoothly.



02 Flexible lessons and schedules

Because all our live lessons are fully online, schools have the flexibility to use Academy21 for specific subjects or create a hybrid solution in which students are still attending their mainstream school for other school commitments. This means students don't ever have to be completely disconnected from school and will likely experience less anxiety and stress returning to their original schools full time.



03 Additional support services

Aside from our broad curriculum for Key Stage 3 and 4 (and Key Stage 2 and 5 via our sister school, King's InterHigh), we offer a wide range of academic and wellbeing support courses to enable students to gain important learning and life skills to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. These courses can support students in reintegrating into schools smoothly and successfully in the long term.



04 Daily updates and reporting

Academy21 works very closely with schools, local authorities and other organisations to ensure that we provide the right learning path for each student, and can, whenever possible, successfully reintegrate them into traditional school settings. From continuous teacher feedback and daily performance monitoring to a fully flexible provision that can be scaled up or down as needed, we can ensure that students are adapting well to school and reengaging with their learning.

Our provision: courses for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

At Academy21, we understand the diverse needs of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 learners.

From small class sizes to one to one tutorials, we bring students a learning environment that supports them to achieve their best.

When you partner with Academy21, we work with you to create a tailored approach for your specific needs. We provide an innovative and easy-to-use platform, comprehensive monitoring and reporting, and flexible provision that works for you and your students.

Flexible, high-quality learning

- Access with just a computer, headset, and broadband connection
- Small class sizes (up to 15 students) to enable teachers to deliver more personalised support to each student
- Customisable timetables to fit in with each learner's school and outside-of-school commitments
- Classes 5 days a week; four 40-minute classes per subject, delivered Monday to Thursday as standard, with the option of adding additional consolidation classes on Fridays
- 39-week academic calendar

Online platforms

- Student portal with access to classes, timetables, tutorials, class recordings, and additional lesson content to enhance progress
- Mentor portal with course information, tier groups and exam codes, tutorial bookings, and comprehensive attendance and engagement reports

Academic and wellbeing support

- One-to-one tutorials each term for each subject to support wellbeing and academic needs
- Subject-specialist teachers experienced in supporting students with diverse needs
- Additional academic and pastoral support courses to improve students' wellbeing and study skills
- PSHE classes available on Fridays

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 programme is designed to re-engage young people with the world of education in preparation for GCSEs.

At Key Stage 3, we provide a balanced curriculum offer for Years 7, 8, and 9 with a range of courses in essential subjects. Available at two levels, our Skillsbuilder programmes provide students with the knowledge and understanding they'll need for future study. Students who complete our Skillsbuilder 1 course are ready to follow Skillsbuilder 2, which ensures students will be 'GCSE ready' at the end of the programme.

Alongside maths, English, and science, pupils can study PSHE, digital skills, and humanities and citizenship.



English

This course develops essential and effective skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to read a range of exciting and challenging materials, which will stimulate their passion for literature and boost their critical thinking.



Maths

This course provides excellent preparation for the rigours of GCSE Maths in all areas, particularly in numbers and algebra. It is ideal for students who have missed a significant percentage of their mathematical education and those who find maths challenging.



Science

This course introduces students to all major content areas across the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum for science, with biology, chemistry, and physics units distributed throughout the year.



PSHE

This course covers key materials pertinent to Key Stage 3 students on study skills, cyber safety, emotional and physical wellbeing, positive relationships, personal finance, mindfulness, and bullying.



Digital Skills

The Digital Functional Skills course will be available at Level 1. The course covers: Five areas of study: using devices and handling information; creating and editing; communicating; making transactions; ensuring online safety. The course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to enable them to interact with the digital world at work and in their daily lives.



Humanities & Citizenship

This combined course develops skills in investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and communication. Students will develop an understanding of change and continuity over time as well as an appreciation of cultural and societal development. Covering a variety of topics, this course assists in preparing students for GCSE History, Geography and Citizenship Studies.

Key Stage 3 - Course List

	Duration	Subject	Specification	Hours per week
Key Stage 3 Skillsbuilder Courses	2 Years	Maths	National Curriculum	2hrs 40mins
	2 Years	English	National Curriculum	2hrs 40mins
	2 Years	Science	National Curriculum	2hrs 40mins
	2 Years	Humanities & Citizenship	National Curriculum	2hrs 40mins
	2 Years	Digital Functional Skills	Edexcel	2hrs 40mins
	1 Year	PSHE	National Curriculum	40mins

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 4 programme supports students through their GCSE years as they work to achieve exam goals and prepare for future education or careers.

At Key Stage 4, we support our students to build confidence while learning the skills and knowledge they'll need for examination success.

At Academy21, we offer courses of varying lengths to suit students in all circumstances, although students can join us at any point in the year. Many of our GCSEs are available as one or two year courses. One year courses are ideal for students in need of accelerated or condensed study, while two year courses offer a greater opportunity to develop skills of analysis and study topics in more depth.

In skills-based subjects such as maths and English, students on our two year courses will get to explore key skills and topics in different ways, giving them multiple opportunities for in-depth study and practice of a wide

variety of exam questions. In knowledge-based courses, studying over two years allows learners to study each topic in greater depth. We recommend that all students take their science GCSEs over two years, as Paper 1 topics are studied in Year 10 and Paper 2 topics are studied in Paper 2. Nevertheless, pupils who do join us for Year 11 only will have the chance to address knowledge gaps in end-of-year revision lessons.

In line with Progress 8 measures, we supplement our core subject curriculum with GCSEs in History, English Literature, Geography and Citizenship Studies. Students who cannot access GCSEs have the option to take skills-based certificates in science, English, digital skills (ICT) and maths. We also welcome post-16 students who have missed out on Key Stage 4 study or need to resit core subjects.

As our course list outlines, we offer a range of specifications for students based in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Our teaching is also directed at improving confidence and skills so even if your specification isn't directly listed, the topics, teaching and support we offer will likely be of benefit to your students.

Key Stage 4 - Course List

	Subject	Specification	Duration	Level
GCSE	Maths	AQA 8300	1 or 2 Years	9 - 1
		Edexcel IMA1	1 or 2 Years	
		WJEC Mathematics and Numeracy (Foundation and intermediate Tiers)	1 Year	D - G
	English Language	AQA 8700	1 or 2 Years	9 - 1
		WJEC 3700	1 Year	A - G
	English Literature	AQA 8702	1 or 2 Years	9 - 1
	Combined Science Trilogy	AQA 8464	1 or 2 Years	9 - 1
	Triple Science	Biology AQA 8461	1 Year (Year 11)	9 - 5
		Chemistry AQA 8462 Physics AQA 8463		
	Science	WJEC 3430	1 Year	A - G
History	AQA 8145	1 or 2 Years	9 - 1	
Citizenship Studies	AQA 8100	1 Year	9 - 1	
Geography	AQA 8035	1 Year	9 - 1	
Entry Level	Everyday Science	WJEC 6430QC	1 Year	EL
Camb Nationals	ICT	OCR J836	1 Year	L1/L2
Functional Skills	Maths	Edexcel Level 1	38 Weeks	L1
	English	Edexcel Level 1	12 Weeks	L1
	English	Edexcel Level 2	12 Weeks	L2
	Digital Skills (ICT)	Edexcel Level 1	18 Weeks	L1
Rescue Year 11 GCSE	Maths	AQA 8300 Edexcel IMA1	26 Weeks	4 - 1
	Combined Science	AQA 8464	26 Weeks	4 - 1
	English Language	AQA 8700	25 Weeks	4 - 1
Non-accredited	PSHE	National	1 Year	N/A
	Study Skills Workshops	N/A	12 Weeks	N/A
	Wellbeing Workshops	N/A	6 Weeks	N/A

Our Key Stage 4 GCSE Courses

+ - Maths

× = All Key Stage 4 students are put into GCSE groups which prepare them for their specific exam board entries (AQA/Edexcel, or WJEC). These GCSE courses enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy, and succeed in maths, equipping them with skills for the future. Students are grouped according to stage rather than age so that each student is able to reach their potential.

Groups include a pre-GCSE group, which less able Year 10s may join to build confidence in maths before tackling topics at GCSE level. Year 11 students are placed in groups which match their level: Foundation for students working at grades 1-3; Foundation Plus for students working at grades 4-5; Higher for students working at grades 6-9. Students are able to move between groups if necessary.



English Language

The course is designed to meet the requirements of the AQA 8700 course and covers the essential skills. We are also able to offer WJEC specific groups. The course covers important and engaging content that gives students the confidence and literacy skills they'll need for all future pathways. Providing the highest standard of knowledge and understanding, this course is a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study as well as employment.

With this qualification students can progress to a full range of courses in further and higher education including Level 3 courses in English, Drama and Theatre 'Studies. The assessment of the oracy component for WJEC cannot be offered at Academy21 and must be assessed elsewhere. Students are able to move between groups if necessary.



English Literature

Academy21 delivers the AQA 8702 specification for English Literature. Complementing English Language studies, GCSE English Literature enriches cultural awareness, creativity, and literary understanding through the study of heritage texts. Students who complete this course will have a solid foundation for progression to careers or future study, including Level 3 courses in English, Drama, and Theatre Studies. Students are encouraged to join this course in Year 10 and follow an in-depth study of the texts over 2 years as they would in mainstream school. This will enhance their skills of analysis and provide opportunities to read around the set texts so that they appreciate the context in which the work was written. Alternatively, students can complete this course in 1 year: this programme is a more condensed version but provides ample opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the set texts and practice exam questions to prepare for success at GCSE level.



History

The course follows the AQA 8145 specification. It enables students to study different aspects of the past so they can consider key issues, understand what drives change and how the past influences the present. Learners develop skills by studying a range of historical evidence and will debate and learn how to present and support their views. Students can study this course in depth over 2 years from Year 10 to Year 11 or they can opt to complete a condensed version of the GCSE in one year. The 2 year course is in line with the length of time students would spend at mainstream school and provides opportunities for students to research various historical events in detail. Additionally, the extended course enhances their understanding of how to analyse a range of historical sources, which will lead to success at GCSE level.



Combined Science (Double Award) - Two Years

Academy21 offers Combined (Dual Award) Science as well as a 'Triple Top-Up' course for separate sciences. There are a range of pathways available to cater to individual student needs. Required practicals are embedded throughout the courses and are delivered via video and interactive simulation software. This ensures all students are properly prepared for the practical questions in their examinations. Combined Science is available as a Higher or Foundation tier course with tiered examinations. Students joining in Year 11 may choose to enrol in both the Year 10 and Year 11 courses if they have significant learning gaps.

Course content - Year 10

biology – cell biology; organisation; infection and response; and bio-energetics.

chemistry – atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry; chemical changes; and energy changes.

physics – energy; electricity; particle model of matter; and atomic structure.

Course content - Year 11

biology – homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution; and ecology.

chemistry – the rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis; chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

physics – Forces; waves; magnetism; and electromagnetism.

revision – Review of Year 10 and Year 11 content and exam preparation.



// **Without Academy21 many of our vulnerable kids would have left school with absolutely nothing!**

Instead, they were able to continue to engage with learning and leave with GCSEs. Rather than punishing these vulnerable students, with Academy21 we have been able to intervene and get to the root of their individual problems. As you can imagine, parents are so grateful for this opportunity to reignite their child's passion for education and give them hope of a positive future. Of course, Ofsted loves it too!"

// **Nathalie Ehlinger**

Manager, Abbeyfield School in Chippenham

Key Stage 4 - 1 Year Courses

We offer various Key Stage 4 courses which can be completed in one year. These are particularly useful for Year 11s who have missed large chunks of their education but need to gain some qualifications.

Everyday Science

This course is available for Year 10 or 11 students who have the option to sit the WJEC Entry Level in Science qualification at the end of the first year of the course. Designed for students aiming to achieve grades 1 to 3 in Combined Science, this course is suitable for students with significant learning gaps who still wish to progress in science education.

Triple Top-Up Science

Students who wish to study separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry, and physics can take our 'Triple Top-Up' course alongside Combined Science. These daily science classes teach the additional content needed for each individual science GCSE. This course is designed for Year 11 students and is only available at the Higher tier. Academically engaged Year 10 students will have the option to pursue the "Triple Top-Up" course in their second year of GCSE study.

WJEC Courses

The following WJEC GCSE courses can be studied by Year 10 or 11 students: English Language WJEC 3700, Maths and Numeracy WJEC cbac (Foundation or Intermediate Tiers) and Science WJEC 3430.

Citizenship Studies

The course follows the AQA 8100 Specification. It enables students to gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. Students will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers. Students of GCSE Citizenship studies learn the value of becoming thoughtful, active citizens.

Geography (New for 2024/25)

The GCSE 1 year Geography course follows the AQA 8035 specification. It enables students to study different aspects of physical and human geography in order to consider key issues and investigate the links between them. Learners will develop skills by travelling the world from their online classroom: they will explore case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs).

Additionally, students will develop knowledge about climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students will also be encouraged to understand their role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. This course enables students to complete a condensed version of the GCSE in one year. The fieldwork component is not included.

Key Stage 4 – Functional Skills

Functional Skills qualifications teach young people the skills they'll need to operate confidently, independently, and effectively in their education, work, and everyday life. Assessments must be arranged outside of Academy21. Exam centre assessments are available at various times throughout the year, while on-screen assessments can be completed at any time through the exam centre(s).

+ – Maths



This Level 1 Pearson Edexcel course develops skills in:

- **Representing:** Selecting the information and functions to model a situation
- **Analysing:** Processing and using mathematics
- **Interpreting:** Understanding and communication results

Academy21 is not responsible for the entering of students for the tests or for the arrangement of the assessments.

English



This combined Level 1 and Level 2 Edexcel course is designed to develop understanding and learn skills in:

- **Speaking, listening, and communication:** Formal and informal
- **Discussions and exchanges**
- **Reading and comprehension:** The ability to read and understand a range of texts, comparing and gathering information from different sources
- **Writing:** Communicate information, ideas, and opinions through a range of written texts

Students can be entered for the external examination at any point during the year. The assessment of the speaking, listening and communication component cannot be offered at Academy21 and must be assessed elsewhere.



Digital

The Digital Functional Skills course is available at Level 1. The course covers five areas of study: using devices and handling information; creating and editing; communicating; making transactions; ensuring online safety. The course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to enable them to interact with the digital world at work and in their daily lives.



Cambridge National IT

The Cambridge National in Information Technologies brings students' knowledge of the digital environment and builds confidence in ICT. Students learn about data management issues, developing practical skills by planning and creating an integrated technological solution to communicate information. This course complements GCSE and vocational learning and helps to prepare students for further study.

This qualification consists of three units:

- **IT in the Digital World:** Assessed by exam
- **Data Manipulation Using Spreadsheets:** Non-examination assessment
- **Using Augmented Reality to Present Information:** Non-examination assessment

Key Stage 4 – Non-accredited Curriculum



PSHE

Taught over one lesson per week, this course provides Key Stage 4 students with an essential understanding of relationships, love, safe sex, emotional and physical wellbeing, drugs, alcohol, and cyber safety.



Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5

Completing the online education journey with Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 Provision at King's InterHigh.

Together with our sister school, King's InterHigh, we can accommodate children and young people with a diverse range of requirements, including SEN and existing EHCPs when our service meets their needs.

Delivered by King's InterHigh, our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 provision comes with the same high level of service Academy21 is known for.

Academy21 handles all aspects of student enrolment and contracts, and you will receive support from your Partnership Manager and Regional Customer Administrator for a seamless experience.

For Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 we offer:

- Access with just a computer, headset and broadband connection
- Classes timetabled from Monday to Friday
- 24/7 access to class recordings
- Highly qualified teachers with experience delivering age-tailored online learning
- 35-week academic calendar
- Online platforms
- Student portal with access to classes, timetables, tutorials, class recordings, and additional lesson content to enhance progress



Key Stage 2 Curriculum

The Key Stage 2 curriculum combines a broad foundation of academic learning with the flexibility to meet each young learner's needs.

At Key Stage 2, we support students to develop into independent, inquisitive learners. Pupils are taught in small class groups with a single teacher, following a typical primary school model. Through quality teaching and guided discovery, each young person works towards the highest possible attainment, setting the foundation they'll need to transition to secondary education. We teach the core curriculum subjects, following the National Curriculum for English, maths, science, and humanities. Students also receive regular, age-appropriate homework to solidify their learning and hone their study skills.

Key Stage 2 - Year 6 Course List		
Subject	Lesson Length (mins)	Total Lesson Time (mins)
English	40 Mins	160 Mins
Maths	40 Mins	160 Mins
Science	40 Mins	120 Mins
Humanities	40 Mins	80 Mins
STEM	40 Mins	40 Mins
French/Spanish	40 Mins	80 Mins
Creative Media	40 Mins	80 Mins
Learning to Learn	30 Mins	30 Mins
Assembly	30 Mins	30 Mins
PSHE/Circle Time	30 Mins	30 Mins
Total		810 Mins

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

With a broad range of A-Levels to choose from, the Key Stage 5 curriculum empowers students to gain a solid foundation for a variety of higher education, training, and career paths.

At Key Stage 5, we offer a versatile programme tailored to each student's unique needs. Pupils can choose any combination of subjects and blend online provision with in-person learning at a local college. Our approach combines independent learning with progress monitoring to achieve the best A-Level outcomes.

Students engage in seminar-style lessons with three hours of contact time per subject per week, complemented by homework and independent study. They have 24/7 access to lesson content and recordings for ongoing learning and exam revision. Our dedicated pastoral team provides wellbeing support and guidance on university applications and career programs. Students also enjoy a common room and online clubs for social engagement and development.

Our courses

The following subjects are taught at AS and A-Level. Speak to your partnership manager for further details on each option.

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- German
- History
- Law
- Maths
- Media Studies
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

Our virtual classroom

The Academy21 virtual classroom offers the best online learning experience.

Our virtual classroom is packed with tools and functionalities that students can use to interact with teachers, classmates, and lesson content. All students need is a headset and a microphone so they can speak and hear everyone.

Students receive a dedicated username and password for secure access to all lessons as well as a personalised dashboard. Through the student dashboard, students can view their timetable, watch lesson library content, and submit extension activities.

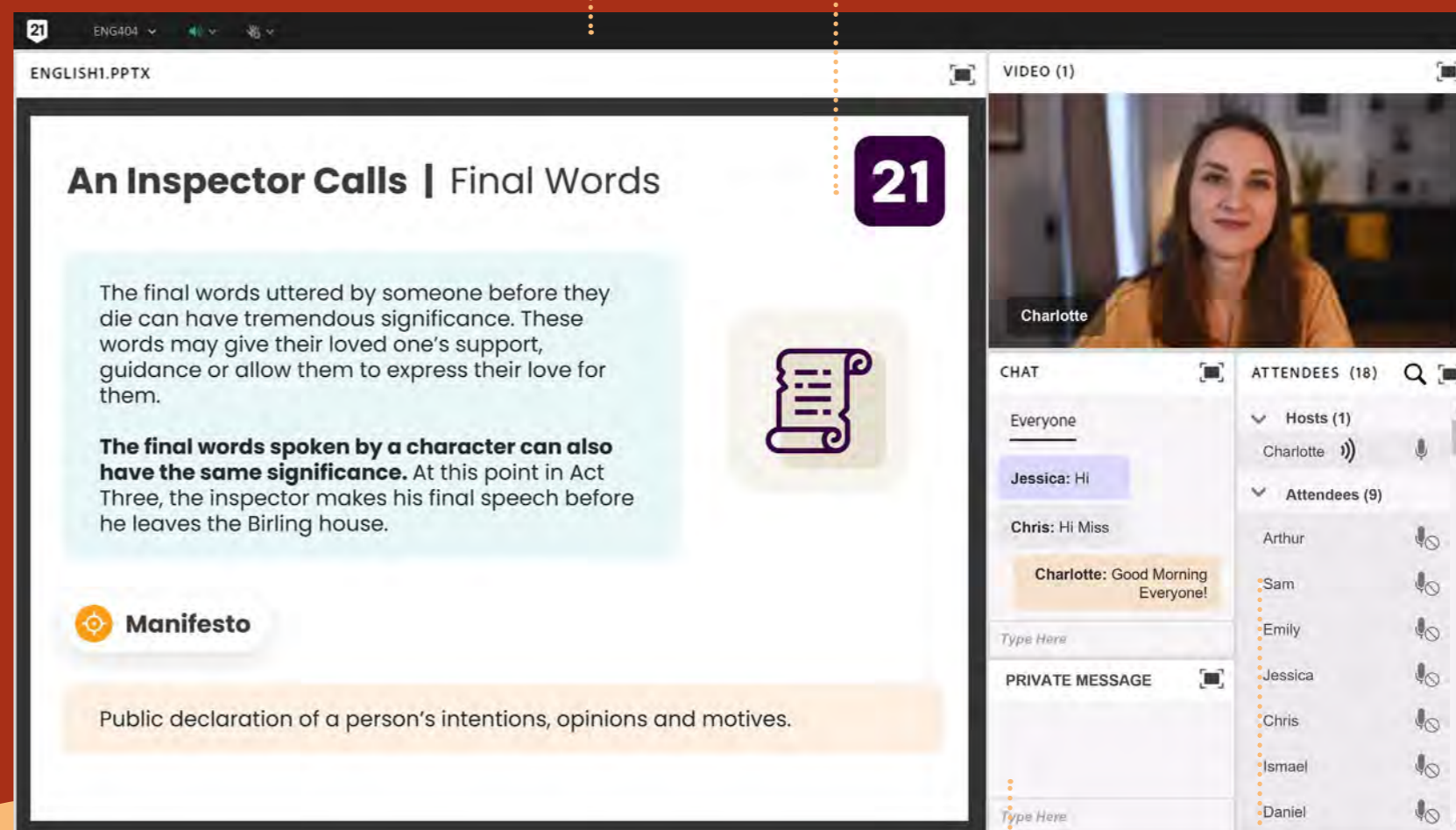
All the support tools we provide students with are controlled by teachers as part of our safety and safeguarding commitment. Equally, communication in class is recorded and saved for child protection purposes.

Menu Bar

The menu bar allows students to raise their hand, use a green tick to agree, a red cross to disagree, a red line to step away as well as icons to indicate that they're laughing or applauding.

Interaction Whiteboard

The main window is a whiteboard, where students can interact directly with activities and use a variety of tools as directed by their teacher.



Depending on the teacher and type of class, there are also chat pods, polls, file pods and 'draw' features available. These capabilities are used to enhance the student experience, enabling them to actively participate in class through different methods, and increase their engagement and motivation to learn.

Q&A

The Q&A pod is where a student and teacher can interact privately.

Chat Pod

The chat pod is where students type in answers or questions for everyone to see.

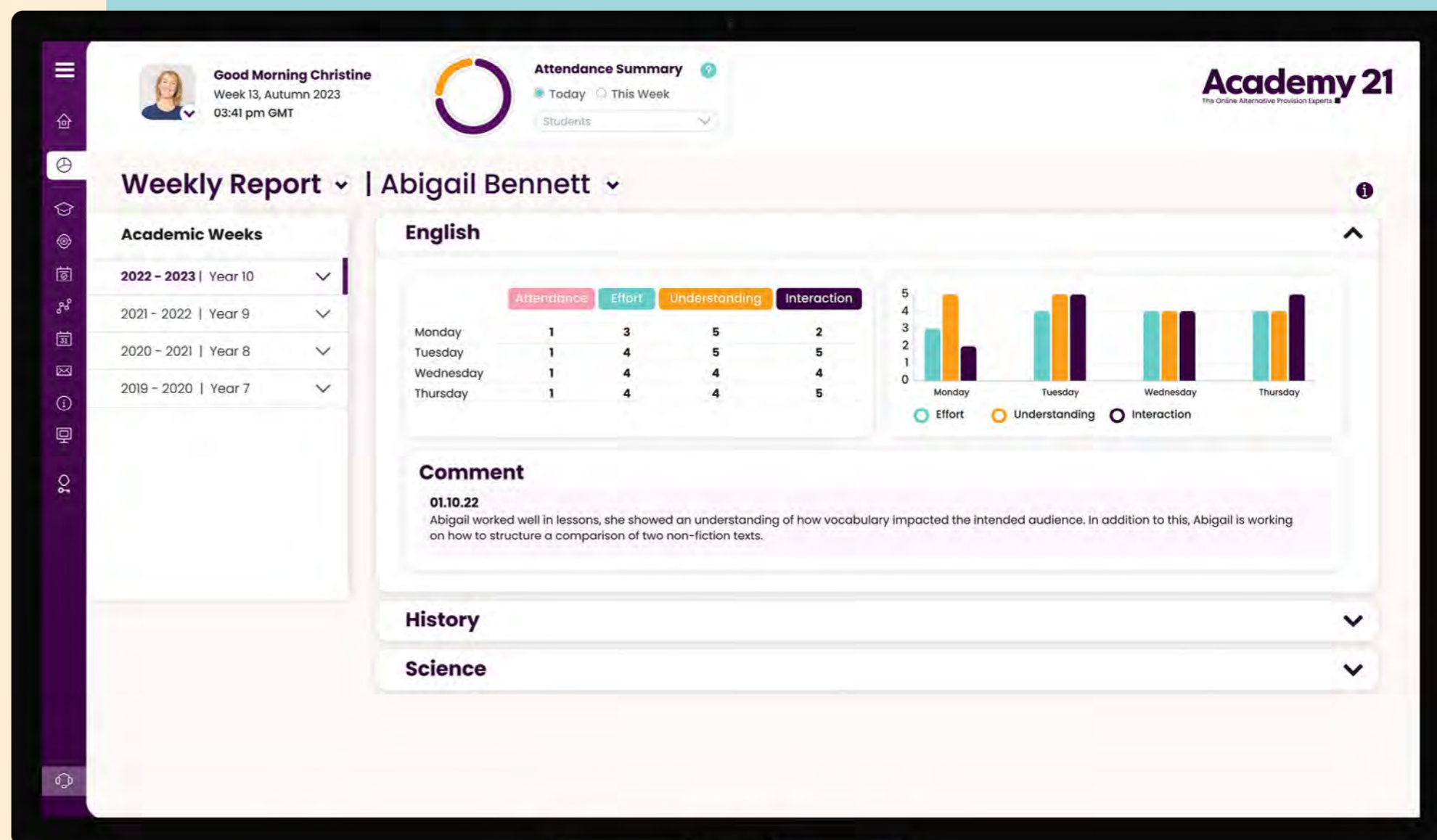
Reporting and monitoring

When you enrol a student with us, you'll get to set the student's attendance and engagement expectations that we'll monitor and report on.

We encourage learning mentors to set realistic targets to suit each student's situation – whether that's increased attendance, more engagement in lessons, or regular homework completion.

Then, we provide all the monitoring and reporting you'll need to track their progress. Teachers record each learner's Effort, Understanding, and Interaction (EUI) levels every lesson. You'll get access to all of this, plus attendance information, on a lesson-by-lesson basis through the Mentor Portal – plus weekly attendance reports and termly academic reports with teacher comments. With EUI scores, Learning Mentors can establish appropriate and attainable goals and gauge how well students are working towards them over time.

We encourage mentors to monitor the EUI data regularly and to use it to motivate and encourage their learners to make small incremental gains towards their overall goals. In this way, schools can use this data to ensure every learner makes the personal progress they're aiming for, such as achieving qualifications, improving attendance, or reintegrating into mainstream education.





// **Academy21 is a fantastic platform that allows students to access online lessons, and resources, and receive timely feedback.**

This has been a great resource for some vulnerable students, who, for many different reasons, are not able to access learning in the traditional classrooms.

It has given students confidence, and helped to bridge learning gaps.

The team behind Academy21 are fantastic communicators, and move things on quickly, so that students can access lessons the next day.

Academy21 keep in touch, and the platform allows school 'mentors' to see student engagement and assessments.

// **Elizabeth Nichols**

SENDCo, Sir Christopher Hatton Academy

Enrolment process

We aim to make our enrolment process easy and efficient for partnering schools and local authorities, so we can support your students as and when they need. We can enrol students in as little as two working days.

01 Reach out

Contact our team via the form below or by calling us at **0800 208 8210**.

[Contact Form](#)

02 Connect with your Regional Partnership Manager

Once you get in touch, you will be connected with a dedicated Partnership Manager (PM) for your area, with whom you can discuss your needs in more detail. You can refer a student straight away or take this time to ask any questions you may have.

You can even meet with your PM in person if you prefer and bring some of your colleagues along for a live demonstration.

03 Get a quote

We will send you a quote based on your specific needs. Once you accept it, your account will be set up.

You'll get a link to complete our online enrolment form and will be connected with your Regional Client Administrators (RCAs). They will be your main point of contact for your onboarding process, so feel free to get in touch with any questions.

04 All set!

You will receive two set up emails: one to access your mentor portal, and one with login information to be shared with your student(s). Please note that our customer support team only communicates with mentors, and never directly with students.

If you need any further information throughout the process, your PM and RCA will be on hand, and always happy to help.

Key Stage	Course type / qualification	Subject	Specification	Provision Model
Key Stage 2	N/A	English, Maths, Science, STEM, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages. Please ask your Partnership manager for more details.	National Curriculum	King's InterHigh
Key Stage 3	Skillbuilder Courses	Maths	National Curriculum	Academy21
		English		
		Science		
		Humanities & Citizenship		
		PSHE		
	Digital Skills	Edexcel		
Key Stage 4	GCSE	Maths	AQA 8300, Edexcel 1MA1, WJEC Mathematics & Numeracy (Foundation Tier)	Academy21
		English Language	AQA 8700, WJEC 3700'	
		English Literature	AQA 8702	
		Combined Science (Trilogy)	AQA 8464	
		Triple Science	Biology AQA 8461	
			Chemistry AQA 8462	
			Physics AQA 8463	
		Science	WJEC 3430	
		Citizenship Studies	AQA 8100	
		History	AQA 8145	
	Geography	AQA 8100		
	Entry Level	Everyday Science	WJEC 6430QC	
	Functional Skills	Maths - Level 1	Edexcel - Level 1	
		English - Level 1	Edexcel - Level 1	
		English - Level 2	Edexcel - Level 2	
		Cambridge Nationals IT - Level 1	OCR J836 - Level 1	
		Cambridge Nationals IT - Level 2	OCR J836 - Level 2	
		Digital Skills - Level 1	Edexcel - Level 1	
	Year 11 GCSE Rescue	Maths	AQA 8300, Edexcel 1MA1	
		English Language	AQA 8700	
Science		AQA 8464		
Non-accredited	PSHE	N/A		
	Study Skills Workshops	N/A		
	Wellbeing Workshops	N/A		
Key Stage 5	A-Levels	Choice of over 20 subjects – see page kingsinterhigh.co.uk/a-levels-online/	AQA/Cambridge International/Edexcel/OCR	King's InterHigh



***To get in touch, call us
on 0800 2088210 or
Contact us***

If you are interested in finding out more about Academy21 and our alternative education provision, or wish to discuss the individual needs of your pupil(s), then please contact our friendly team.

Academy 21
The Online Alternative Provision Experts ■