



Type of School:

Ralph Allen School is a non-denominational, 11-18 year old, mixed community school on the south side of Bath with approximately 1,071 pupils. We take in 175 pupils each year through six forms of entry.

Learners using Plan-it:

Plan-it is used by Years 9 – 11.

Ralph Allen has been using the Plan-it system since it started 4 years ago.

Models of delivery:

Year 9

Students are introduced to Plan-it during their Personal Social Education lessons and it is used as a research tool for starting the option choice process for Key Stage 4. By recognising their strengths and weaknesses and completing the action plan students consider the subjects they will take.

Year 10

Students continue to use Plan-it in Y10. They access it through the Education for Life programme which incorporates Citizenship, health issues, careers and other life experiences. They make necessary changes to their action plans, which help them to focus on their academic targets and on work experience which is completed at the end of Year 10.

Year 11

In Y11 Plan-it is used to support the students with making choices for post 16 options, support in completing Curriculum Vitae and help in making plans for their future career pathway

All tutors and Specialist Personal Social Education staff are briefed on using the system with the students. The briefings include managing the system and how to use it to support academic review days and interviews with individual students - leading up to their option choice decisions.

Use of Plan-it Data:

The data produced by the students is used by tutors, subject teachers, Heads of Key Stage and Leadership team in monitoring the progress of students. The statistics gathered are especially useful to share with parents during Academic Review Days. It also highlights issues that individual students might be having.

Involvement of the Connexions Personal Adviser?

The role of the Connexions Personal Adviser is to support the use of Plan-it, which is written into the school's Partnership Agreement with Connexions. Connexions staff have supported the Plan-it sessions with the students in Year 9. The Connexions Adviser also has access to the reports – these are beneficial when doing one to one interviews with students, and helps flag up the need for intervention.

Benefits:

All staff and students have benefited from using the system and all have been positive about the versatility Plan-it offers. Students enjoy using the programme and Plan-it supports and complements the careers programme. Plan-it gives the students the motivation to achieve and reach their potential and I would recommend any school to add it to their Personal and Social Education Programme.

Feedback from staff and students:

Year 9 students:

'I enjoyed doing the quizzes, which gave me new ideas about which GCSE's I want to take'.

'It made me realise that I need to make some targets and plan for my future'.

'I loved doing Plan-It it was much more fun than usual PSHE lessons'.

Tutors and staff comments:

'It was very useful as a starting point when interviewing Year 9 students for their options'.

'It was interesting to look at what my tutor group had put in their action plans, and it made me realise that I did not know what some of them did in their leisure time'.

'Plan-it is a powerful tool to use and also revisit to make changes when necessary. I would recommend its use to enhance Personal & Social Education lessons'.

Carole Macdonald
Senior Pastoral Manager