

## Cramlington Learning Village encourages students to be independent learners using Google for Education tools



### At a Glance

#### About Cramlington Learning Village

- Located in Northumberland, England
- Over 2,000 students, aged 11 to 18

#### Goals

- Develop successful independent learners and thinkers
- Increase collaboration using technology
- Introduce a device for students to create and consume content
- Use technology to help students to have a real life impact on their local community and the world around them

#### Approach

- Introduced Google Apps for Education five years ago
- Rolled out 350 Chromebooks and Google Classroom

#### Results

- Inspired students to be confident independent learners and thinkers
- Increased collaboration and created a seamless process for teamwork
- Encouraged students to deliver high quality work
- Helped students stay organized

### About Cramlington Learning Village

Located in Northumberland, England, Cramlington Learning Village specializes in science and vocational education for more than 2,000 students aged 11 to 18. Its mission is to develop independent learners and thinkers.

### Challenge

Cramlington started focusing on virtual learning 11 years ago, when it introduced an intranet with lesson plans and resources for each subject. Teachers and staff saw the profound impact technology had on the student's learning, making it more engaging and personalized.

Upon introducing the intranet, Cramlington gave staff more than two hours per week to collaboratively plan online lessons with their colleagues. The school also hired three web designers to help create engaging online resources.

Four years ago, Cramlington introduced Samsung Galaxy tablets and developed new online toolkits that gave students access to online resources in one easy-to-access place. "The tablets were a great consumption device, but we quickly recognized their limitations. We had a definite need for a production device with a keyboard and suite of apps," says Phil Spoor, assistant head teacher at Cramlington.

### Solution

Cramlington rolled out 350 Chromebooks two years ago, and 1,000 additional devices this year. The school introduced Google Classroom in 2014, and now students and teachers use Chromebooks and Classroom daily in their lesson plans. The devices encourage students to think more deeply and work more collaboratively.



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*“The instant feedback is impacting the quality of work students are doing and motivates them to turn in high quality work. Google Classroom has pushed the boundaries of what it means to be an independent learner.”*  
—Phil Spoons, assistant head teacher at Cramlington

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Students and teachers had been using Google Apps for Education five years before the schools switched devices, so Chromebooks were a logical choice that integrate well with the suite of apps. Chromebooks also allowed Cramlington to customize how they use the devices while including their own apps as part of the online learning program. In the next three years, every student will have access to their own Chromebooks as part of a 1:1 program.

### **Benefits**

#### **Instant collaboration**

Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education give students the tools to collaborate on team projects wherever they are. “We’ve done away with the typical classroom,” Spoons says. “Students sit around a round table, so they can easily work on projects in groups of four.”

For example, a humanities teacher assigned a group presentation about a specific event in U.K. history. Students huddled around tables, pulled out their Chromebooks and jumped right into the assignment by opening up Google Slides. Using the comments and real-time editing features, everyone contributed to the presentation and had an equal voice. The teacher was able to see how the work was developing live, could tell what contribution each individual had made and was able to provide ongoing feedback anytime. Students regularly responded to the feedback during evenings, over the weekend and during break time.

“With Google for Education tools, I can get on task and use different tools like Classroom and our class blog straight away when I enter the classroom,” says a year 8 student.

#### **Increased motivation for quality work**

Students receive feedback from teachers and peers as they work on assignments, and teachers can better understand students’ learning processes. Since students receive comments on areas for improvement while the content is still fresh in their minds, they deliver higher quality work. “The instant feedback is impacting the quality of work students are doing and motivates them to turn in high quality work,” Spoons says. “Google Classroom has pushed the boundaries of what it means to be an independent learner.”

Cramlington uses technology as a tool for students to guide their own learning. Students can access YouTube videos to deepen their knowledge

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### About Google Apps for Education

Google Apps for Education is a suite of free, secure tools that includes Gmail, Calendar, Sites & Documents. Use it for collaboration and communication no matter where you are or which device you're using. Over 40 million students, faculty, and staff in schools around the world have gone Google with Google Apps for Education.

[www.google.co.uk/edu](http://www.google.co.uk/edu)

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### About Google Chromebooks

Chromebooks are designed to help students and teachers get things done quickly and easily. Devices start at £159 and are simple to manage at scale through a web browser. With several devices to choose from, it's easy to find a Chromebook that meets your students' needs. You can learn more here:

[www.google.co.uk/edu](http://www.google.co.uk/edu)

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about a topic in the current lesson plan or to pursue a subject that they aren't studying in class.

To help students become successful independent learners and thinkers using technology all year 8 students take a core course called "Google Project." During the course, students work on a series of projects that help them become familiar with Google Apps, and learn to access and use a range of online learning tools. They also learn how to collaborate with a team and employ design thinking. At the end of the course, students create their own moonshots, which are radical or creative ideas that solve a local or global problem. Winning groups have the fantastic opportunity to travel to Google offices in London to pitch their moonshot idea to a Google panel.

An assignment is never final until the student is happy with it. With Google Apps for Education, students can revisit an assignment, make revisions and receive new comments. "They can continue to receive feedback from peers and teachers until they've created a piece of work they're proud of," Spoons says.

### Better organization

Students no longer rely on paper planners; they use Google Calendars to keep track of their class schedules and assignments. Students and parents can access information from any device, and students always know their homework assignments since they're accessible online.

"Google Classroom is my favorite because I can use the resources my teacher posts outside of school and it's easier to meet deadlines," says a year 12 student.