

## Case Study

**Norlington  
School for Boys**

**Primary/  
Secondary School**

**English as an Additional Language (EAL)  
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)**

# Promoting Student Integration and Social Cohesion

## Challenge

Norlington School for Boys (NSB) is one of five schools in Waltham Forest that have formed a collaborative partnership to launch the Achievement Partnership project. Language training with Rosetta Stone will be the key to integration and social cohesion giving students important opportunities for their future lives. The objectives of the venture include improving student attainment, adopting accelerated learning techniques and developing better visibility into tracking student performance. NSB sought a language-learning solution in support of integrating limited English proficiency learners into the classroom faster and to support social cohesion in the community at large. In addition, the school wanted a programme that would allow learners access to languages beyond the traditional foreign language instruction at the school. The solution needed to support the goals of the five school collaborative partnership mentioned. Focusing on Years 7-11, NSB needed to provide an outstanding curriculum and teaching capability that would lead to increased academic achievement. With a focus on anywhere, anytime study, NSB looked for a solution that could be accessed online which the school believed to be critical in helping create a culture of learning amongst today's digital natives.

## Implementation

NSB implemented the Rosetta Course® online solution in December 2012. The school utilised the programme for EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners to help them improve the on-boarding process, and get students integrated into the classroom at a faster rate through building critical English language skills. In addition, NSB used the solution to enhance foreign language instruction, expanding available languages beyond classroom offerings. Learners were required to use the solution a minimum of 30 minutes per session, 3 times per week. The programme was also implemented to expand foreign language offerings beyond the classroom, allowing students to study additional languages independently. Many students also used the programme at home as part of their homework requirement. The administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™, was used to monitor and manage learner study and progress.

## Benefits

The following benefits have been realised between the implementation in December 2012 and March 2013:

- Long-term vision to reduce overall on-boarding time of EAL learners from 24 weeks to 12 weeks
- Enhanced language offering, increasing the quality of student capabilities upon graduation
- Provided the means to improve KS3 scores as well as to boost GSCE performance after 2 years of use for limited English proficiency learners
- Increased cohesion and integration at the school; growing opportunities for the future



## At a Glance:

Norlington School for Boys is a small inner London community school serving an area of significant deprivation. Over 70% of students are classed as EAL, English as an Additional Language learners.

Norlington School has experienced a rapid improvement in academic outcomes, becoming the most improved Boys school in London in 2012/13. It was recognised by the Minister of State for Schools as one of the top 100 schools in the country for achievement of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Norlington School is leading school to school improvement projects across London and has delivered training programmes to education professionals aimed at vastly improving the education and life chances of students both in the UK and internationally.

*"The solution is very simple in its use, but very powerful at the same time. Students can access it quickly and learn fast without realising that they are actually learning."*

— John Hernandez

**Norlington School for Boys**  
**Head Teacher**

### Focusing on Community Cohesion

NSB believes that language is essential in preparing their students to be global citizens to succeed in participating in a global community. This is particularly important when considering the multicultural communities of students attending the school as well as the ethnically diverse world. The school utilised the Rosetta Stone® solution to expand foreign language offerings beyond the classroom. As part of a five school collaborative partnership, the Achievement Partnership, the schools participating targeted world language programmes as a major component of the academic curriculum offered. NSB provided classroom instruction in French but realised the need to expand world language offerings to support curriculum goals. Using the programme increased their ability to offer learners additional world languages to expand critical language skills for future success. As John Hernandez, Head Teacher at NSB states, "We live in a global community where you need a second or third language in order to make yourself accessible to opportunities in our international job market."

### Integrating Learners into the Classroom

The implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution at NSB focused on decreasing the time required for learners with limited English proficiencies to be fully integrated into the classroom. The school looked to reduce the current on-boarding time from 24 weeks per learner to 12 weeks per learner. By leveraging the Rosetta Stone programme, the school is able to provide instruction through technology in order to build the language skills and structures for students at a faster pace than traditional classroom only instruction. John Hernandez states, "The solution is very simple in its use, but very powerful at the same time. Students can access it quickly and learn fast without realising that they are actually learning." Learner success in the program has been attributed to complementing the learning strategies of digital natives as well as providing different contexts for learners to apply language.

### Implementing for Success

NSB required that learners study with the programme a minimum of 30 minutes per learning session, 3 times per week. Students used the solution for both English language and foreign language study. The school conducted a survey to identify which students had technology resources at home. Students that did have computer access in their homes were assigned the Rosetta Stone solution for homework. Through the online solution, students could study with the programme independently, expanding instruction beyond school hours. This allowed NSB to prioritise technology resources at the school for those learners that did not have access at home. The school plans to utilise the programme during the summer break as an on-boarding tool for EAL learners prior to attending in the fall term. This will give students the ability to build language skills for academic success in the up-coming school year.

### Realising Benefits

Many benefits are anticipated from the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution. The school has a long-term vision to reduce overall on-boarding time of English for English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners from 24 weeks to 12 weeks. The Rosetta Stone solution will enable the school to meet this long-term objective. The school has an enhanced Language offer, increasing the quality of student upon graduation by expanding opportunities to study more languages using the programme. The implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution has enabled the means to improve Key Stage 3 scores as well as to boost GCSE performance after 2 years of use for limited English proficiency learners. In addition, NSB has an overall goal of increasing cohesion and integration at the school and growing opportunities for the future through use of the programme.

### About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-based language learning. With 20 years of experience behind us, we're continuing to develop award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and the operations of organizations every day.

Our proprietary, proven method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the immersion environment in which people learn their first language, and it activates each learner's natural aptitude for acquiring a new language regardless of language background. We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to entire organizations.

Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organizations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.



Education