

Up Learn Case Study Compilation

Real Life Tips, Tricks & Inspiration

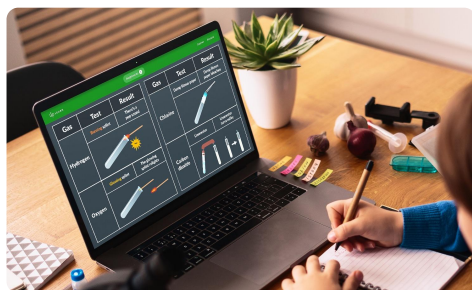


Introduction

Welcome to our Case Study Compilation.

We've put our most recent case studies into one handy guide, so that you have access to inspiration, ideas and ways to focus on making the most out of Up Learn.

“Brilliant! This is the future of education as far as I’m concerned. The product itself is brilliant. I have seen how effective it is first hand. If you do have a question the customer service is excellent.” –Michael Rowlands, Mayfield Grammar School



Over 2 million hours of learning



685 schools partnered with Up Learn



Delivers A*/A outcomes at A Level at
2x the national grade average



1 in 2 of ALL reported A Levels were A*/A.

Content

Sec. 1 Structuring Independent Study & Academic Excellence

These schools emphasise structured independent learning, often using target setting, tracking, and routine building to help high-achieving students excel.

P. 04 Macmillan Academy

- Flipped learning and structured homework with Up Learn integration.
- Strong culture of independent learning preparation for university.

P. 07 Urmston Grammar

- Directed study program with weekly XP targets.
- Strong emphasis on accountability and performance tracking.

Sec. 2 Confidence Building Through Personalisation & Feedback

These case studies focus on personalised student support, especially in challenging STEM subjects, to build confidence and exam readiness.

P. 10 Mercia School

- Half of independent study time spent on Up Learn.
- Heavy use of the platform for building confidence in sciences, especially Chemistry.

P. 13 Oasis Academy South Bank

- Unique 1% daily improvement strategy.
- Notable grade improvements and motivation through target-based challenges.

P. 16 University of Sheffield

- Identifying knowledge gaps through embedded quizzes and active recall features.
- Strong link between usage and improved confidence.

Sec. 3 Empowering New or Small Cohorts & Supporting Staff

These schools use Up Learn to bridge staffing gaps, support new teachers, & offer structured learning paths for students in small or growing sixth forms.

P. 19 Michaela Community School

- Up Learn used to ensure full curriculum coverage, even by non-specialists.
- Flexible use for homework, revision, and class support.

P. 22 Astrea Academy Sheffield

- Early-stage sixth form using Up Learn to build strong foundations.
- Used for CPD to train and support teachers.

“Up Learn gives students what they need and challenges them at the level they’ll face in exams. It’s clear, comprehensive, and incredibly effective.”



About the School

Macmillan Academy, part of Endeavour Academies Trust, is a large secondary school and sixth form based in Middlesbrough. With a strong focus on academic success, pastoral care, and personal development, Macmillan prepares students to thrive in further education and beyond. The school places particular emphasis on creating independent learners who are capable, motivated, and resilient.

Jonny Foster plays a key role at Macmillan Academy, teaching A Level Physics, GCSE Science, and GCSE Maths, all whilst currently acting as temporary Head of Year 7. He leads on Up Learn usage for the Physics department.

Versatile Integration Across the Curriculum

Macmillan sixth form has integrated Up Learn in a number of ways throughout the school year. Most notably, the platform is embedded into the scheme of work for A Level Physics, with Up Learn links provided alongside each new topic.

“It’s become part of our lesson planning. Students always have the option to go and consolidate with Up Learn, whether I’ve set it as homework or not.”

Assignments are set via the platform, and it's also used diagnostically – students scoring below a certain grade in tests are assigned specific Up Learn sections to revisit and master.

Supporting Independent Learning

For Jonny and his team, Up Learn's greatest value is how it supports and encourages independent learning – something Macmillan is always actively working to instil.

“We’ve really pushed independent study this year. Students pre-watch Up Learn videos before lessons and complete a sheet summarising what they’ve learned. It means we can spend lesson time answering their questions and doing exam practice.”

This flipped learning model helps students develop self-discipline and prepares them for the demands of university-level study.

Why It Works for Students

Up Learn provides Macmillan students with a learning format that resonates, which is particularly important when tackling a demanding subject like A Level Physics and Chemistry. The STEM subjects are notoriously difficult, so Macmillan uses Up Learn as a key resource to give students both simple explanations and challenging exam-level questions.

“The videos are absolutely brilliant – really clear. It simplifies hard concepts, challenges them in a similar way a real exam question would, and tests their understanding. That’s the beauty of Up Learn.”

Why It Works for Teachers

For teachers, Up Learn is a reliable and flexible tool. Jonny sets it for pre-reading, homework, intervention, and revision. It helps ensure curriculum coverage and allows him to track progress on the teacher dashboard feature that launched this academic year

“As a teacher, it’s brilliant for me to be able to use Up Learn in multiple different ways. Over time, improvements have definitely been made to the assignment tracking and it’s a lot more manageable when setting tasks – I know I can just go in and see everything.”

Up Learn also helps when staff capacity is stretched – Jonny has found it useful as a fallback resource when no subject specialists are available.

Benefits for Schools

- ✓ Scalable support: Can be used flexibly across year groups and staff with varying experience.
- ✓ Structured independent learning: Perfect for flipped classrooms and revision.
- ✓ Diagnostic power: Supports targeted interventions with data and assignments.
- ✓ Curriculum assurance: Helps staff feel confident they've covered everything.

Benefits for Students

- ✓ Challenging content: Students practise at exam standard from day one.
- ✓ Clarity: Concepts are explained in a way students understand.
- ✓ On-demand access: Learning continues outside the classroom.
- ✓ Confidence: Students feel in control of their learning journey.

Advice for Parents & Students

Jonny's advice for parents is simple: stay involved.

“Just check in. Not in a nagging way, but know what's been set, ask about their workload, and make sure there's a quiet space for study.”

And for students?

“Do the pre-reading. Use Up Learn before the lesson so you can focus on understanding and applying what you've learned. Then practise, practise, practise those exam questions. That's what makes the difference in Physics.”

Final Thoughts

“Would I have loved something like Up Learn back when I was studying? 100%. I struggled reading from plain, black and white textbooks, so to have had Up Learn with the videos, the visuals, the interactive questions – it's definitely something I wish I'd had.”

At Macmillan Academy, Up Learn is more than just a resource – it's a part of their sixth form learning culture, helping both students and staff experience an optimal environment for success.

“With Up Learn, we can track progress in real-time – no more students slipping through the net.”



About the School

Urmston Grammar is a selective grammar school located in South Manchester, within the Trafford Local Authority. The school has approximately 375 students in their Sixth Form, with 90% of A Level students studying at least one of the six Up Learn subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Psychology, and Economics. Over the past four years, Up Learn has been gradually phased in at Urmston Grammar, helping students develop independent learning skills and achieve top exam results.

About the Teacher

Tom Kennedy-Fowler, Co-Head teacher at Urmston Grammar, has played a key role in implementing Up Learn in the Sixth Form. As both a senior leader and a Chemistry teacher, Tom has firsthand experience of how technology can support learning and is dedicated to improving student outcomes through structured, independent study.

Targeted Approach to Addressing Learning Gaps

Initially, Up Learn was introduced to support struggling students—particularly those whose GCSE grades may have been impacted due to the pandemic. Many of these students needed more support to be fully prepared for their A Levels, and Tom and his team sought a structured, scalable solution to help them succeed.

Up Learn was first trialled with 40 students as part of the school's catch-up funding initiative, focusing on those who needed extra support in their final months before exams. While engagement with the platform varied, those who actively used Up Learn saw significant improvements. Encouraged by these results, the school expanded Up Learn access in subsequent years, integrating it into their independent study model.

Embedding Independent Study with Directed Learning

Recognising that independent study plays a critical role in A Level success, Urmston Grammar developed a Directed Study Program to structure students' out-of-classroom learning. Up Learn was designated as the official directed study tool for students taking one of its six supported subjects.

Instead of relying solely on self-directed revision, students were required to achieve 140 experience points (XP) per subject per week, equating to two hours of structured learning. This scaffolded approach ensured that students were consistently engaging with high-quality learning materials, reinforcing their classroom learning, and preventing knowledge gaps from widening.

“Students know exactly what’s expected with Up Learn. Independent study is now less ‘independent’ and more structured.”

Top Tips for Success

Tom and his team have refined their approach to maximising engagement and results with Up Learn. Here are his top tips for success:

- Introduce Up Learn from the Start: Embedding it into Year 12 study habits early leads to stronger engagement.
- Set Clear Goals: Students at Urmston Grammar are expected to complete 2 sections per subject per week, which translates to around two hours of focused work.
- Use Assignments to Direct Learning: Teachers set specific tasks to ensure students focus on key areas rather than leaving them to navigate content on their own.
- Track Student Progress: The teacher dashboard allows educators to monitor student engagement, completion rates, and academic progress.
- Foster a Culture of Accountability: By linking work beyond the classroom independent study with structured support, students take responsibility for their learning while still receiving teacher guidance when needed.

Benefits for Schools

- ✓ Improves consolidation work: reduces strain on teacher workload
- ✓ Enhances tracking and intervention: teachers can monitor progress in real time.
- ✓ Provides structured, high-quality resources: supports both student learning and teacher CPD.
- ✓ Academic foundation/support: can be used for directed study programs or as an additional revision tool.

Benefits for Students

- ✓ Covers full A Level content: Students can review, revise, and reinforce learning independently.
- ✓ Personalised learning approach: Quizzes and scoring systems direct students to focus on weaker areas.
- ✓ Encourages self-discipline: Helps students build effective study habits that prepare them for university-level learning.
- ✓ Increases confidence: Students report feeling better prepared for exams with structured revision.

Impacts & Outcomes

At Urmston Grammar, the introduction of Up Learn has led to measurable improvements in student engagement and exam performance. Analysis by the school's Head of Physics revealed a strong correlation between Up Learn usage and higher A Level attainment. The data also showed that students who engaged consistently with Up Learn avoided underperformance, reinforcing the platform's value as a safety net for struggling learners.

Over the past four years, students at Urmston Grammar have completed an average of 70 hours of Up Learn per year, with some students exceeding hundreds of hours. The ability to set assignments, track completion, and identify learning gaps has made Up Learn an essential part of the school's Sixth Form strategy.

"No students who engaged consistently with Up Learn underperformed; it's a real safety net."



About the school

Mercia School, located in Sheffield, offers an academically rigorous environment that focuses on assisting their scholars in achieving their full potential and preparing them for top Russell Group and Ivy League universities. With an Outstanding rating from Ofsted, it is the number one school in the country for Disadvantaged Pupils and third place for progress overall, currently outperforming hundreds of schools in London. Their emphasis on the importance of taking STEM subjects has resulted in around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Mercia Collegiate Sixth Form cohort being onboarded to at least one or more of the six A Level subjects Up Learn has to offer.

About the teacher

Louise Heritage's teaching career began as a French and Italian teacher in 2013, before completing a Master of Education at the University of Cambridge. Her background in linguistics lends itself to fostering a culture of dedication and confidence for the cohort she oversees at Mercia Collegiate Sixth Form, facilitated greatly by their use of Up Learn.

STEM at Mercia

Mercia scholars are extensively using Up Learn to supplement their studies. Louise talked to us about the Sixth Form's distinct approach to A Levels, aiming to attract elite pupils from Sheffield and beyond and become the top destination for post-16 provision. The cohort is small and highly academic, with scholars dedicated to achieving top A Level grades. Maths, Biology, and Chemistry are the most popular subjects, as a large proportion of scholars undertake STEM subjects with a view to studying Medicine.

The current cohort have had access to Up Learn from the start of Year 12 to accompany their independent study. Independent study sessions are timetabled into their week, along with scholars being able to access Up Learn from home. Louise explained that scholars studying Chemistry, Biology and Psychology are encouraged to spend at least two hours a week on Up Learn, especially as exams approach.

Independent study

Teachers assign four hours of independent study a week, of which half of this time dedicated solely to Up Learn for those studying Sciences and Psychology. As the year goes on, Year 12 scholars tend to use the platform more and more effectively, recognising its value in both revision and exam preparation. Louise shared that Mercia scholars have had **“a lot of video-lesson time and have found it very helpful.”** The scholars then **“move through the different components of their subjects, and as they grow more confident, they engage with practice papers and use mark schemes for feedback.”**

Scholars frequently praise Up Learn, particularly for Chemistry, Psychology and Economics. Chemistry, a challenging subject for many, has seen significant benefits from Up Learn, allowing scholars to revisit and consolidate difficult concepts. The platform has been essential, as Louise explained, **“the opportunity to recap topics independently and work on topics that they find challenging has been invaluable.”** Building their exam confidence has also been key, with the Chemistry department in particular noting that scholars found it **“absolutely essential to their confidence so that they feel prepared for the exam.”**

Teacher dashboards

The Mercia initial January mock results were promising, with Up Learn playing a crucial role. The new dashboard feature enabling teachers across all six departments to track student activity has been particularly useful, with Louise praising its “really informative insight.” It allows for monitoring work and ensuring scholars are meeting their required study hours. The correlation between Up Learn usage and scholar success is evident, reinforcing its value. Mercia Sixth Form has seen huge value in the platform and are very much looking forward to using it again next year.

Benefits for the teacher

- ✓ Teacher dashboards allow insight into user activity
- ✓ High quality independent study work guarantee
- ✓ Able to set scholars specific topics to complete
- ✓ Scholars coming to class confident and ready

“The Chemistry teacher speaks of being able to see if they have done their two hours with a clear check. It’s the monitoring of work and input that Up Learn’s display screen and tracking abilities that really help.”

Benefits for the scholars

- ✓ Gets scholars into a positive, easy revision routine
- ✓ Access to a high-quality learning tool from anywhere; school, home or holiday
- ✓ Detailed feedback from teachers

“Mercia scholars always speak so highly of Up Learn. They have found it absolutely essential to their confidence so that they feel prepared for the exam.”

Tips & tricks

- Incorporate Up Learn into independent study time
- Utilise teacher dashboard for data and insights
- Encourage video lessons earlier in the year and practice papers/exam by topic later in the year

“For many of the cohort, half of their independent study time is spent on the platform. Up Learn has allowed them to revisit, consolidate, understand, go in their own time, watch again, etcetera. That recap and time on their own to work on the areas that they find challenging has been invaluable.”

Impacts & outcomes

- Promising January mock marks
- Direct correlation with scholars committing to the platform and achieving high grades
- The platform grows scholars' confidence and increases exam readiness

“The keenest ones that revise the most then grow in confidence, and therefore they're doing better. It's cyclical, so there's definitely a correlation with success and usage. I can totally see the value which is why we've invested in it and look forward to offering it again for next year.”



About the school

Oasis Academy South Bank is a brilliant school serving over 800 students, with around 60% of students in the lower school on Pupil Premium. They are an outstanding school, part of the Oasis Trust and hold their students to high academic standards. The school has been using Up Learn since 2020, however the Physics department has recently been achieving particularly incredible results.

About the teacher

Stanton Wertjes has been a teacher for 11 years, with the past 5 years spent at Oasis Academy. He currently oversees Year 10 and Year 11 as Head of KS4, as well as being KS5 Physics Lead at the school. After studying Music at University, he pivoted. His music degree has informed his pedagogy immensely, encouraging his students the power in exercising the practice based mentality of a musician.

We spoke with Stanton about how he has been utilising the Up Learn platform for optimum results in his Year 13 class, by implementing a system whereby students must hit certain percentage goals as part of their Physics revision and homework. Oasis Academy emphasises the importance of setting high standards and targets, with Stanton highlighting Up Learn's ability to drive students towards meaningful, independent learning.

The story

Up Learn has been a daily part of Stanton's routine since the beginning of January. Starting from when the students returned from the Christmas break, he told all of his students that they now have to earn 1% per day. He told us that **"Immediately they came back to me the next day - and this is the really beautiful thing - there was just a palpable shift. There was just a feeling in the room that was different. You could see the perspiration on their faces, as if to say 'we worked really hard on Physics last night in order to earn our 1%'."**

The extensive work required to gain percentages, the rigorous focus on Physics, and the complete coverage of the specification made the Up Learn approach highly valuable to Oasis Academy. Stanton emphasised the intense effort driven over the past five months to integrate Up Learn. As a result, the students have **"a library of information really well organised in their brains"**. Along with this, they have better exam pacing, increased confidence, and the ability to quickly adapt to challenging questions. He said that **"without such a tool, it would be impossible to provide enough Physics practice within the school day alone."**

Previously, the students' mock exam results included C's, D's, and E's. After extensive Up Learn practice, they saw remarkable improvement with 2 A*s, 2 A's, and 2 B's in the next round of mocks. One student even improved from an E to an A. Four out of seven students scored over 90% on Up Learn doing Paper 1 and 2. **"No other intervention had such a significant impact as Up Learn"**, making Stanton deeply invested in the platform.

Going forward, they plan to use Up Learn as a core learning tool and the **"engine of all A Level Physics classes"** at Oasis Academy, with the school excited to implement it with Year 12s and 13s across the sciences in the upcoming year. He finished by stating **"I feel that my students are really well prepared for this A Level Physics exam, largely as a result of all the time they've spent on the platform. I'm really grateful to Up Learn."**

Benefits for the teacher

- ✓ Able to set students impactful work with specific targets
- ✓ Less time spent marking
- ✓ More time spent engaging with the class
- ✓ Improved grades

"I either have to do tonnes and tonnes of marking to support them in their independent work, which I don't always have time for. Or, I can use something like Up Learn, that is giving them automated feedback, it's really hard to earn points on, and I can see how much work they're doing."

Benefits for the students

- ✓ Clear guidance on the work they should be doing
- ✓ Strict routine and habit making
- ✓ Exam readiness and confidence
- ✓ Improved grades

“Their pacing in exams is better. Their confidence in exams is better. They're able to pivot more quickly when they see questions they don't understand and balance. There was a student who got an A who was on an E, it was just this huge shift.”

Tips & tricks

- ✓ Setting percentage goals for students as homework tasks
- ✓ Students are congratulated & awarded prizes for hitting targets
- ✓ Students must complete their targets, otherwise they are reprimanded

“All the kids who have got 90, I gave them a little crown and we did a whole ceremony in class. If you haven't earned a percent today, you are all going to be on Up Learn after school. Then I know they're going to spend an hour doing deliberate practice, and that practice will be really high quality.”

Impacts & outcomes

- The majority of students achieved 90% when doing Physics Paper 1 and 2 on Up Learn.
- One student previously on an E grade achieved an A in their mocks
- C, D & E grades transformed into A*s, A's and B's

“No other intervention had such a significant impact as Up Learn”



Introduction

As part of the University of Sheffield's *Access to Sheffield* programme, Year 12 and Year 13 students were given access to Up Learn to support their A Level studies. At the end of the year, the programme team surveyed the students to understand how Up Learn impacted their confidence, learning experience, and academic readiness.

The results reveal a strong link between using Up Learn and improved student confidence - particularly in challenging STEM subjects - thanks to the platform's structured videos, interactive quizzes, and clear delivery. Students also highlighted areas for improvement, many of which have already shaped recent product updates.

Boosting Student Confidence Through Simplified Learning

One of the clearest outcomes from this year's survey was a notable increase in student confidence across key A Level subjects. Many students described a shift in how they approached difficult concepts, thanks to Up Learn's structured, step-by-step delivery. Features like short, focused videos and embedded quizzes helped break down complex material, allowing students to feel more in control of their learning journey.

Students commented:

- **"I now understand topics much better."**
- **"The videos helped me grasp difficult concepts."**

Subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, and Maths were frequently cited as areas where confidence had significantly improved due to the clarity and pace of the platform. This aligns with previous years' findings and reinforces the role of Up Learn in building subject mastery through incremental learning.

Interactive Content That Drives Retention

The platform's interactive approach—particularly through quizzes and progress tracking—was highly valued. Students appreciated how these tools helped them identify knowledge gaps in real time, reinforcing concepts through immediate application.

Key student feedback included:

- **“The quizzes after every video really helped me understand what I grasped and what I needed to revise.”**
- **“I like how the quizzes helped me check what I understood.”**

These active recall features were highlighted as a vital part of revision, especially in the run-up to exams. Students found that consistent quizzing supported long-term retention and made them feel more prepared.

Ease of Use and Platform Experience

Overall, students rated the platform as user-friendly and accessible. The clean interface and intuitive navigation made it easy to locate specific topics and work through the curriculum efficiently.

Typical feedback included:

- **“It's easy to use and navigate.”**
- **“The interface is clear and simple to understand.”**

This sentiment was consistent across STEM subjects, where students felt that the structure of content and clarity of delivery helped reduce overwhelm during revision periods.

Feedback Fuelling Product Improvements

A recurring theme in this year's feedback was the importance of exam board-specific alignment. While most students felt the content was helpful, a few noted gaps in exam board coverage – particularly in Chemistry for OCR and AQA specifications. Others expressed a desire for even more exam-style questions and topic summaries.

This constructive feedback has already influenced platform development. Up Learn has since enhanced its exam board-specific mapping and is actively working on expanding these tailored resources. Many of the students in this cohort may not have yet experienced these latest improvements, particularly if their usage tapered off after mock exams.

Some students also highlighted the value of more varied video formats and dynamic teaching styles to maintain engagement. Thanks to this kind of input, the content team is exploring new formats to boost learner interaction.

Student Suggestions for Continued Enhancement

- More exam board-specific content for Chemistry, Physics, and Psychology.
- Quick revision summaries for each topic.
- Integration of essay guides and exemplar responses, especially for essay-based subjects.
- Broader teaching styles to maintain engagement across different learners.

Key Takeaways

→ Confidence Boost

Students reported a marked increase in subject confidence in STEM subjects due to the clear structure and engaging content.

→ Effective Revision Tools

Embedded quizzes and active recall features were among the most praised elements.

→ Platform Usability

The majority found Up Learn easy to navigate and use.

→ Constructive Feedback Addressed

Suggestions around content alignment and engagement have informed recent platform updates, with more improvements underway.

Conclusion

The 2023/24 survey responses confirm that Up Learn continues to offer high-impact learning support, particularly in enhancing student confidence and content retention. The feedback also serves as a valuable roadmap for ongoing development. With updates already implemented in response to student input, Up Learn remains committed to evolving with learners' needs, ensuring it stays a powerful, exam-focused resource for future cohorts.

“Up Learn is just a brilliant way to support your students. It’s so comprehensive, reliable, and effective – it really works.”



About the School

Michaela School is a highly academic, inner-city secondary school and sixth form located in Wembley, London. Since its founding in 2014, Michaela has built a reputation for its traditional values, high standards of discipline, and outstanding student outcomes. Known for being “strict because we care,” Michaela fosters a culture of achievement, personal responsibility, and academic excellence, with many students progressing to top universities.

The school operates a small but focused sixth form, where students benefit from strong relationships with teachers and a highly structured learning environment. Silent study periods, rigorous routines, and a strong emphasis on explicit knowledge teaching define the Michaela approach.

About the Headteacher

Katharine Birbalsingh CBE, Headmistress at Michaela School, is a passionate advocate for academic excellence and traditional education. With a clear vision of creating a school that transforms lives through discipline, knowledge, and love, Katharine has led Michaela to become one of the most talked-about and successful schools in the country.

Versatile Resources for Every Scenario

Michaela School has used Up Learn for several years, integrating it primarily as a homework and revision tool. With a team of exceptional teachers already in place, Up Learn is used to ensure every corner of the curriculum is covered and to add depth to student learning.

Even highly knowledgeable staff sometimes find areas they hadn't covered when exploring Up Learn. Katharine notes, **"It gives you reassurance – you're doing the right sort of thing."**

In situations where schools may not have subject specialists available for every A Level course, Katharine believes Up Learn is invaluable. **"It's a godsend. You could have a deputy in with students and just play Up Learn – they'd learn everything they need."**

Supporting Independent Learning in Sixth Form

In Michaela's sixth form, independent study is carefully structured. Unlike some sixth forms where students have large amounts of free time, Michaela ensures that time is used productively through scheduled lessons and silent study periods. Up Learn complements this perfectly, offering students comprehensive and engaging resources to study independently at home or during school hours.

"Even students love it. They get everything they need, and it works – what more can you ask for?"

Why It Works for Students

Up Learn resonates particularly well with today's digitally native sixth formers. While Katharine is a strong advocate for limiting screen time in younger children, she believes older students benefit from the engaging, interactive format of Up Learn.

"It's not just a textbook. It's dynamic, accessible, and enjoyable. The platform is alive – it updates and adapts, which a textbook can't do."

Up Learn also supports students' revision strategies, offering a practical, test-based approach to help commit knowledge to long-term memory. **"You need to test yourself, be aware of what you don't know. Up Learn helps students do exactly that."**

Benefits for Schools

- ✓ Curriculum coverage assurance: even expert teachers find it useful to check for gaps.
- ✓ Flexible usage: can be used for homework, revision, or in-class learning support.
- ✓ Ideal for staffing challenges: acts as a substitute or supplementary teacher when needed.
- ✓ Accessible at home: empowers families to support A Level students outside of school hours.

Benefits for Students

- ✓ Engaging content: speaks to students in a way textbooks often can't.
- ✓ Comprehensive learning: covers everything needed for A Level success.
- ✓ Supports revision: helps identify weak areas and consolidate learning.
- ✓ Builds confidence: students feel more in control and better prepared.

Advice for Students & Parents

Katharine encourages students to “start early” when it comes to A Levels. **“At some point, every young person decides to take things seriously. The earlier they do, the better their outcomes will be.”**

For parents, her advice is clear: create an organised, quiet study space and act as a personal trainer – gently keeping students on task. **“Sometimes a tap on the shoulder is all they need to stay focused.”**

Final Thoughts

“Up Learn is brilliant. I don't usually say that about many educational tools, but I say it about this. It helps the students. It helps the teachers. It helps the headteachers. It just works.”



About the school

Astrea Academy Sheffield is a new and ambitious school, part of the Astrea Trust. Now in its second year, the school's sixth form is steadily growing, with this September marking a significant milestone: their first-ever set of results. As a small sixth form with big aspirations, the school's leadership has focused on creating a compelling and effective academic offer to attract prospective students. For the past two years, they have incorporated Up Learn into their toolkit and are seeing the benefits, particularly with the significant improvements to the product in September 2024.

About the teacher

Gemma Driver is the Head of Sixth Form at Astrea Academy Sheffield and Up Learn Lead, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role. She is passionate about ensuring that her students – (whom Astrea calls scholars) and teachers have access to the best tools and resources for success.

Using Up Learn was a 'no brainer'

For Gemma, adopting Up Learn was a straightforward decision. "When I looked at the platform, it was a no-brainer," she says. With clear learning goals, the ability to **track progress**, and **materials** designed by examiners, Up Learn provides a structured and effective approach to learning that aligns perfectly with Astrea's academic ambitions. The platform's capacity to sequentially guide scholars through material has been useful for their cohort taking STEM subjects, where gaps in knowledge can often feel overwhelming to address.

Supporting Teachers with CPD

Up Learn isn't just helping Astrea's scholars; it has also become an invaluable tool for teachers. Astrea Academy Sheffield has introduced the platform as part of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), helping teachers prepare for lessons and familiarise themselves with the curriculum. **"It's particularly useful for relatively new teachers,"** she explains, as it ensures they use the right language and fully understand the specifications of the subjects they teach. This dual-purpose approach benefits both teaching staff and scholars, creating a supportive and informed learning environment.

Top Tips for Success

- 1. Set Concrete Goals:** Gemma's top tip for success with Up Learn? Set clear and measurable goals. At Astrea Academy Sheffield, they aim for a minimum completion per term, motivating scholars to stay on track and gradually build their knowledge base. This incremental approach ensures steady progress and helps prevent scholars from falling behind.
- 2. Maximise engagement with recognition and competition:** Create a Leaderboard: Adding an element of fun competition among scholars has proven to be a powerful motivator. Up Learn's Customer Success team have a set of materials to support you in recognising and celebrating progress – get in touch with them to find out more.

Benefits for Schools

For Gemma and her team, Up Learn has proven to be particularly valuable in a small cohort setting. With some scholars entering the sixth form with grades 5-6, the platform has helped drive significant improvements in attainment. One student, for example, initially struggled in biology but has since seen huge grade jumps thanks to the structured support offered by Up Learn.

Benefits for Students

Scholars at the academy have embraced the platform, with many finding it not only helpful, but enjoyable. Even high-achieving scholars who might assume they don't need additional resources have discovered the value of Up Learn in refining their knowledge and preparing for exams. One student described it as an essential tool in their academic toolkit.

Impacts and Outcomes

Although Astrea Academy Sheffield is still awaiting its first set of A Level results, the impact of Up Learn is already evident. Scholars have reported increased confidence and better preparation for exams, while teachers feel more supported in their roles. The platform has helped foster a culture of accountability and achievement, laying the groundwork for long-term success at the sixth form. Astrea Academy Sheffield's journey with Up Learn highlights how the right tools and strategies can transform both teaching and learning. For schools looking to innovate and support their scholars effectively, the Up Learn platform is proving to be an essential asset.



Want to learn more?

Discover how we can help your school boost attainment, support independent learning, and save time and money.

[Book a meeting](#) or [fill out this form](#) to get started.



Already a partner?

Email us at [**team@uplearn.co.uk**](mailto:team@uplearn.co.uk) to make sure you're getting the most out of the platform.



Stay in the loop!

Explore our latest case studies and webinars in the [resources section](#), and [sign up for our newsletter](#) to get monthly round ups.



Would you like to be featured?

If you're interested in being featured in our next case studies or webinars - get in touch with [**team@uplearn.co.uk**](mailto:team@uplearn.co.uk). We'd love to hear from you!