

Bradford College

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Asa Gordon
Assistant Principal for Employer Responsiveness

Background

Bradford College is a large college based in the north of England that delivers courses to more than 20,000 learners. The college provides courses up to post graduate level and delivers training to over 2,000 apprentices. Apprenticeships are offered across a huge range of industries and include areas such as Accountancy, Childcare, Dental Nursing, Digital Marketing, Painting & Decorating and Plumbing.

The need for a solution

Bradford College was initially looking for a way to improve identification of, and support for, learners with hidden learning needs on their apprenticeship programmes. They needed a comprehensive solution to help them manage the entire process.

Assistant Principal for Employer Responsiveness, Asa Gordon, described the situation with apprenticeship support:

“The main challenge we faced was identification of hidden learning needs. We have a different model to most providers as we meet our learners for the first time whilst they are in work. At this point, learners with learning needs have often resorted to finding their own coping mechanisms to help them feel competent in the workplace. We needed help to manage the process and a range of support materials.”

The solution in action

After a thorough selection process, Bradford College initially chose Cognassist to help them identify and support learners with additional learning needs on their apprenticeship programmes. The college has embedded the solution into its off the job training courses, and are using the management tool to monitor progress.

Asa explains how using Cognassist has been of benefit to the college and its learners:

“We’ve allocated a coordinator to implement Cognassist throughout our programmes. This has seen a significant boost in engagement – learners are using the Cognassist interventions monthly, feeding back to their progress officers as part of a review process and discussing how this is supporting them in their roles.”

“We have found that our learners are using it in lunch hours, when they are travelling to work and in conversations with managers at work. This offers a wide range of independent learning touch points, outside of their taught activity with college staff.”

► Bradford College has success rates for apprentices at 15% over the United Kingdom national average and are so impressed with Cognassist that they have recently begun to use the solution with a broader range of learners outside of their apprenticeship provision. They have also opened a dedicated Cognassist assessment centre within the college itself.