

Chesterfield College

“A toolkit in the hands of the learner”

Anthony Gribben-Lisle
Former Vice-Principal for Business Excellence Chesterfield College

Background

Chesterfield College is a further education college delivering study programmes, higher education, part-time courses for adults, apprenticeships and a range of programmes to meet the skills needed by local and regional employers.

The college employs 800 staff and welcomes around 21,000 learners each year, of which around 3,000 are apprentices.

Chesterfield College’s vision is “Inspiring Futures, Changing Lives,” which drives their goal “to be recognised locally and nationally as an outstanding college by the students, employers and communities we serve.”

The need for a solution

Former Vice-Principal for Business Excellence Anthony Gribben-Lisle described the need for a solution:

“There was a gap between the support we could provide to those students who come into college, and those out in the workplace, who primarily relied on their work-based tutor to support all of their needs. A tutor may not always have the specialist knowledge to support learners with additional learning needs. At the same time, learners may not have clearly defined needs that can easily be matched with support strategies.

“We needed to provide more effective identification and support, so that apprentices would achieve higher outcomes and be able to showcase their skills to prospective future employers.”

The solution in action

Anthony explains how using Cognassist has been of benefit to Chesterfield College:

“Cognassist provides a clear way to assess needs and puts a toolkit into the hands of the learner and the tutor, allowing them to focus on areas of development that will support their vocational studies. We have a number of students who use the interventions on a regular basis and we have also identified other possible uses that we will be exploring with the Cognassist team.

“Implementation has been one of the smoothest we have experienced with a new system like this. Training has been very flexible, appropriate to our tutors and delivered by knowledgeable and engaging staff. There is nothing similar on the market.”