The Potteries Educational Trust is a vibrant Learning Community working hard in the areas that it serve to maintain and develop excellent and innovative teaching and learning. Made up of 4 academies across primary, secondary and sixth form education, their focus is to provide the very best education for every child and young person within the Trust. They do this by offering a high quality, broad, academic education for the children and young people of Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire and beyond.

Continued growth is important to the Potteries Educational Trust. Both in terms of institutions (academies) and student numbers. But it's important that the growth is measured and sustainable and doesn't lose sight of the trust's values.

Access Education software has given the Potteries Educational Trust the time and confidence to focus on providing the very best education for every child and young person within the Trust.

Overseeing two academies, Eddie Shotton, chief financial officer at the Potteries Educational Trust needed a finance system that helped, rather than hindered his team. Here, Eddie explains some of the main benefits of the Access Education Finance and Budgeting software that they implemented in September 2020.

Before implementing the Access Finance and Budgeting software we were using two alternative finance and budgeting systems. These were not fully fit for purpose and managed to make the simplest of tasks far too over-complicated and time-consuming.

The quarterly VAT return used to take two days and now takes less than half a day to complete and we have far better control over all academy trust data and can easily grant different permissions for other system users.

As and when required, staff can generate reports or charts, as well as easily managing payroll and the reconciliation process.

" We were incredibly lucky to have such a reliable and robust system during the period of remote working and it gave our SLT real peace of mind that the finance team could access what they needed at home, which allowed them to focus on better supporting staff and pupils. **"**

Eddie Shotton

> "The quarterly VAT return used to take two days and now takes less than half a day to complete and we have far better control over all academy trust data."
>
> **Eddie Shotton**

The fact the system is so easy to use has really helped boost staff morale, as they enjoy working with the software and can make good use of its enhanced functionality. I'd say stress levels among the team have also significantly reduced since this time last year - staff enjoy coming to work again!

About Access Education:

For over a decade, schools, academies, multi-academy trusts and local authorities have benefited from our extensive knowledge and understanding of the sector. The Access Education software suite provides efficiency and engagement across your whole educational establishment. From finance and curriculum-based planning, through to HR, payroll, recruitment and screening, hosting and facilities management, all your school's software is brought together in one place on Access Workspace. And if you need any help, our team of Education experts are on hand to provide tailored support and training during implementation and beyond.

Over 9,000 schools and academies across England and Wales – that's one in three – choose Access Education to transform the way they work, giving them the freedom to provide outstanding education.

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