



## The Hawksmoor Learning

**Trust** is based in South Northamptonshire and is madeup of 4 primary schools with a 5th joining later in the year.

The Trust is inspired by the privilege, moral responsibility and challenge of preparing our children for real life in an unpredictable, ever changing world.

Everything is so much QUICKER and the system is far more intuitive to use



Finance director at <u>Hawksmoor Learning</u> <u>Trust</u>, **Jonathan Davis**, is currently responsible for three primary schools, with another due to open in September.

Here, Jonathan discusses how Access Education Finance has made a difference to his day-to-day role, driven efficiencies and helped ensure that the finance team are working as smart as possible.

Before implementing the Access Finance software in February 2020, we were using Capita FMS. The transition has been like switching from a penny farthing to a racing bicycle, everything is so much quicker and the system is far more intuitive to use.

Despite all three of our schools having their own Capita package, none of them could talk to each other so consolidating information was a real nightmare. Since implementing the Access software, transactions have been cut from three to one and it's much easier to collate figures across the whole Trust.

The previous system was not designed with an academy in mind, which also hindered our ability to quickly generate trust-wide reports. The Access software makes the whole process much easier, leading to some huge time-savings. If I had to guess, I'd say producing management reports takes me a fifth of the time that it used to.

The completely cloud-based Access software also allows budget holders to log in anywhere and view their budgets, with head teachers also able to analyse financial metrics, see how much they've spent and what's been purchased. The fact we can now scan invoices and receipts has also made the monthly auditing process much quicker, and this will make a huge difference when it comes to the annual audit. *Before implementing the Access Finance software we were using Capita FMS. The transition has been like switching from a penny farthing to a racing bicycle, everything is so much quicker and the system is far more intuitive to use!* 

## **Jonathan Davis,** Finance Director, <u>Hawksmoor Learning Trust</u>

As finance director, the system allows me to dive into the details of each financial transaction whenever required, as well as accessing the supporting information, purchase order and invoice in just a few clicks.

The software has made a tremendous difference to the whole Trust and I know the positive impact has been felt by everyone in the Trust, not just the finance team. From an administrative point of view, we now have everything in one place ensuring the school can run as effectively as possible - freeing up others to spend time focusing on the pupils.

We are planning to implement the Access Budgeting software over the next year and I'm looking forward to seeing the additional efficiency savings this will bring. The whole team at Access have been great throughout. We had a particularly great relationship with the consultant responsible for implementing the system and training our staff (Simon Burns). He has always been available (during and after the initial project) to help iron out any questions the team had.



## **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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