HR

Finance

DEALT

Comprising eight primary schools, the **Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust** (DEALT) is an exciting and unique Multi Academy Trust.

With their unswerving commitment to integrity and transparency alongside a restless pursuit of excellence, DEALT ensures every child in their care is provided with a great education.

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David Myatt,
Chief Financial Officer
Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust

David Myatt, chief financial officer at the Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust (DEALT) currently oversees eight primary schools in the Southeast of England. During his time at the trust, David has seen the benefit of moving to a more streamlined and integrated way of working since implementing the Access software.

Here, David discusses the benefits of the Access Finance, Budgeting and People software.

Before implementing the Access software, we were reliant on outdated and clunky systems. When we academised in April 2019 however, we had the option to implement something new which was really exciting.

The Access Finance and Budgeting software now presents our data in a more intuitive and user-friendly way. I always think that you should be able to access data where you think it should be, rather than having to manually search through or stumbling across it completely by chance.

As CFO, I can also manage permission levels to ensure that the right members of staff can access the required information. With our old system it was all or nothing, which created issues around data security and privacy.

I can already see that the Access Finance and Budgeting software will make a huge difference to the auditing process as we can grant the auditors access to a 'read only' version of our system, via the cloud. Not only will this minimise the time auditors spend on-site, but it will also make the entire process far less stressful for the trust.

Back in 2019, our annual audit took about 40 days and last year it was closer to 25. Next time around, having been using the Access system the full financial year, I'm anticipating that we'll smash our 20-day target.

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Teachers now also have a much clearer understanding of what their budget is and how much they have left to spend. Two years ago, they would have had to ask their headteacher, who would then speak to the finance team which was hugely inefficient and made forward planning difficult.

Back in June we also added Access People and it's already making a noticeable difference, having significantly cut down the time we spend processing data. By consolidating our HR processes into one system we now have full visibility of the entire trust, improving reporting and KPI analysis.

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Since adding the Access products we've been able to implement positive change and improve ways of working across the trust. As updates happen in real-time, I'm confident that the whole trust will be working from the same information and communication will also continue to improve.

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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