



Casestudy Belfast Met

Discover measurable ways to promote equality in the classroom

“LessonUp helps me bring equality in the classroom. I can pull everyone’s answers into one learning space, and ask probing questions. As a result, I always know where every student is standing. It’s of great support!”

– Madeline Whiteside
Film & Media teacher Belfast Met



Belfast Metropolitan College is the largest Further and Higher Education College in Northern Ireland, and one of the largest in the UK. They provide a unique breadth of education and training at every level, supplying a designed portfolio of courses to address a variety of skill needs.

Madeline Whiteside is a committed Film & Media teacher at Belfast Met. She has been working there with pleasure for two years.

Challenges

Madeline was struggling with including and engaging all of her students during her Film & Media lessons at Belfast Metropolitan College.

One of the agendas we have as a school is to include everybody in the classroom, also kids who may have special education needs.

To give an example, one of her students was not communicating verbally with her and his peers. She wasn't sure how he was doing, nor whether he understood or enjoyed her lessons. It was frustrating both for her, and for his worried parents.

There is a student in my class that is always very shy. If he was ever given a chance to work with his peers, he would hold back. I wasn't sure how he was doing because he was just not communicating verbally...



Solutions

Madeline researched the internet. **She had to find a teaching app or platform to help her with promoting inclusiveness and equality in the classroom.** It also had to provide her with tangible, incontrovertible data to prove and quantify a progression. Eventually, she came across the LessonUp digital teaching platform.

I went looking for a technology app, something new, to apply to my teaching. I was asked to prove that it promotes equality in the class.

Most of LessonUp's features are for free, so Madeline decided to try it out. First of all, she [inserted her current Powerpoint presentations in a LessonUp lesson](#). Secondly, she alternated a number of interactive features (open-ended questions, quizzes, polls, the spinner, etc.) to [promote engagement in the class](#).

Like most teachers, I had an archive of Powerpoint presentations. I was able to pull them into a LessonUp lesson, and add components to make them more interactive & gather feedback from my students.

Results

The impact of using LessonUp in the class

During her next Storyboarding class, Madeline proposed working with LessonUp. Her incredulous students were asked to [take out their mobile phones](#), when they were normally asked to put them away. What was happening today? All her students were very alert, curious and excited right from the beginning.

*It instantly hooked my students. **They were smiling and thought it was great!** It got them engaged right from the start of the lesson.*



*Normally I would have to walk around the room to check on everybody and, of course, other students would get distracted... Whereas if you have **one place where everyone can see all of the feedback**, it gives you a clear snapshot of how all your students are perceiving your lessons.*

This approach actually increased the speed of the lesson. At a certain point during this class, Madeline implemented a few open-ended questions, and

Madeline asked her students to draw their own storyboard. After completing the illustration, they were asked to take a digital photo of it, and feed it back to her. The resulting drawings were shown on the central screen, within LessonUp. Everybody could look at the pictures at the exact same time, comment on them, and discuss details and angles of the different works.

encouraged her students to type their answers on their own devices.

*I love just posing an open question on the platform. **It is great to see my students typing away on their phones.***

At the end of the lesson, after a very successful first time using the platform, Madeline decided not to ask for feedback. It was evident that her students had really enjoyed working with LessonUp. It had engaged them right from the beginning,

appealing to their love of technology, and need for interaction.

I didn't ask them for feedback at the end of the class, but **some of them came up to me and said that they really enjoyed it!!!**

This, of course, is the one of the greatest compliments a teacher can receive.

The perfect podium for quieter, less forthcoming students

As stated in the first part of this case study, Madeline was having some problems with a very shy student in her class. He just didn't participate much, especially in group activities. He also avoided giving verbal feedback...

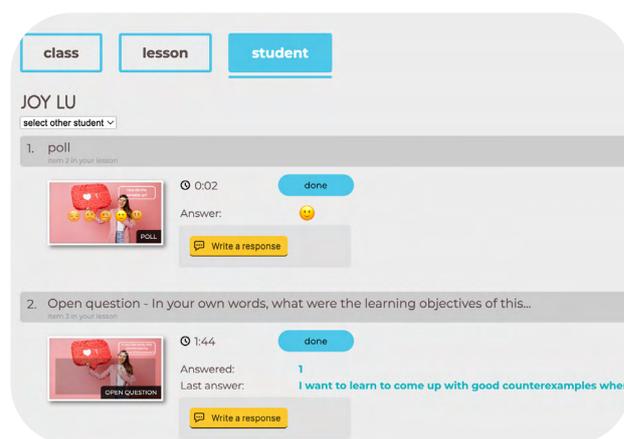
Madeline decided to implement some open-ended questions in LessonUp. She wasn't sure if this student was learning, absorbing and processing information. She also didn't know how he was feeling when working with her and his peers, nor what his emotions were in relation to the learning process and material.

*I decided to set the LessonUp timer to 2 minutes. My students had to come up with their answers to questions within the appointed time. Everyone was concentrating, quietly typing and thinking. And the results of my shy student were great! **I was able to see what he was really capable of.***

Madeline discovered that her shyest student **thrives working in a digital environment**, surrounded by a quiet class. While afraid of being in the spotlight, he enjoys answering questions in his own words without having to talk in

front of his peers. He is still stimulated to join group efforts, but feels less pressure. She knows for sure that he understands, processes and enjoys her learning material.

During the latest parent-teacher conference, **she was able to show his parents their son's positive results directly from the LessonUp reports.** In fact, LessonUp stores all students' results in [automatically generated reports](#), making it easy for a teacher to consult and communicate student data. That also comes in handy when preparing for meetings, or before writing student report cards.



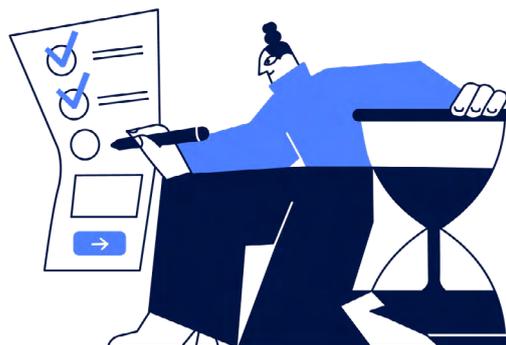
For the first time, I had tangible proof of how he was actually doing. It was great to be able to track his results across multiple lessons.

By using a professional digital teaching platform, Madeline Whiteside solved her initial challenges. **All her students became included and engaged during lesson time, and even [the shyest kid felt safe to express what he knew.](#)**

An unexpected extra benefit

After a few weeks working with LessonUp, Madeline became faster in creating lessons, testing her students, and implementing the [whole range of interactive features](#). While doing so, she bumped into another unexpected benefit: LessonUp had cut her lesson preparation time. She was now faster than before.

It is worth investing a bit of time in learning how to use LessonUp. It isn't difficult. **For me, it has cut the lesson preparation time.**



The interactive options within the platform are quite easy to fill in and implement, and once you have found the right lesson layout for your class, you have your lesson structure. The rest is what you are already doing every day as a teacher.

Curious how LessonUp can empower your team?

Click [here](#) to schedule a discovery call.

About LessonUp

At LessonUp we believe teachers are at the heart of education. Teachers inspire, motivate and lead students. **Our mission is to empower every teacher to create the most engaging, joyful and effective learning moments.** Especially for them, we have implemented the most complete, all-in-one digital reality to teach engaging interactive lessons, and enable access to thousands of interactive, customisable

lessons created by our inspiring community. Any lesson can be used in real time or student paced, and be taught in the classroom or remotely. **We are here to support both teachers and schools during their digital journey towards better-supported educators, because engaged students learn better.** Let's connect, feel inspired and always look forward to the next lesson!