



The Virtual-Workspace is a dynamic web-based learning environment designed to engage learners aged 14-19 (Years 10 to 13), in and out of school/college. The aim is to raise attainment at all levels through helping them to become confident, independent and motivated learners.



In the Virtual-Workspace, learners and teachers each get their own private, secure web space, which they can access anytime from any internet-enabled computer. Not only does this help to extend the learning day, but it also provides means of communication – e.g. online messaging, chatrooms and forums - which are familiar to learners and often better suited to their needs.

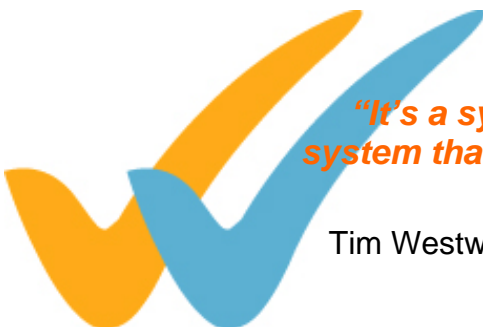
What are the key features?

- ✔ A mentoring service, which includes live communication with human mentors from 8am to 8pm on weekdays
- ✔ Over 4,500 learning materials supporting the 14-19 curriculum
- ✔ A range of communication channels, including messaging, discussion forums and chat rooms
- ✔ Online assignment management and storage of work and interest materials
- ✔ Learning Communities, encouraging collaboration between learners and teachers, across schools/colleges
- ✔ An incentive scheme for learners, offering real rewards
- ✔ A Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for teachers and support staff to help integrate the Virtual-Workspace into all aspects of teaching and learning



“It’s a system that allows learners to collaborate. It’s a system that allows learners to learn individually at their own pace.”

Tim Westwood, Head of e-Services (Children and Young People’s Services), Wolverhampton City Council





“This could definitely help improve our grades in the exams and GCSEs we’ve got coming up.”

Student, Worcestershire



“They can pick up resources, they can work on them whenever it suits them so its going to move away from the restriction of just simply work being associated with what they do at school.”

Paul Saddington, South Bromsgrove Community High School, Worcestershire

What makes the Virtual-Workspace different from other VLEs?

- ✔ This is a **managed service**, not just an ‘off-the-shelf’ product. The Learning Mentors monitor and moderate the Site, backed by an Acceptable Use Policy, an Online Behaviour Policy and an approved Child Protection Policy; thereby providing a safe, closed online community.
- ✔ Our fully trained Learning Mentors are unique to the Virtual-Workspace and provide new ways of engaging learners; they support, guide and advise learners through all aspects of their educational experience.
- ✔ The Virtual-Workspace continues to evolve over time, with users helping to shape future developments; there are ongoing interactions between users and Virtual-Workspace staff made possible by the communication and feedback channels on the Site.
- ✔ The Virtual-Workspace recognises that the successful implementation of a VLE in schools/colleges requires the effective training of staff. The CPD programme offered by the Virtual-Workspace Training Team addresses this issue and helps staff to make effective use of the Site in their teaching.



Want to know more?

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