

## Case study

# John Taylor High School



John Taylor High School is a secondary school with over 1,600 students in East Staffordshire. As part of the centre of the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust and as a National Teaching and Research School, the school is passionate about effectively integrating technology into teaching.

We spoke to Simon Curzon, Director of Numeracy, Louise Burns, Curriculum Area Leader of English and Peter Packer, mathematics teacher, to learn more about why they chose CENTURY and their experiences with the platform to date.

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### Why did you choose CENTURY?

We were looking for a package that had comprehensive Key Stage coverage and would work for Key Stage 3 all the way up to Key Stage 4. We also wanted something that could support our learners in sixth form who still needed to do some catch up work in terms of passing their GCSE maths and English, as we usually don't get a lot of time to work with those students.

We wanted something that could cover everything. We didn't want to have a package that had gaps in it and certain topic areas that still needed to be plugged in.

The staff in our school also have very varied levels of confidence with using technology, so it was important for us to provide staff with enough training to make them feel comfortable and confident using whatever technology we decided to introduce.

The training that CENTURY offers was really fantastic, and the students and the staff were able to just pick it up and run with the platform.

In terms of the coverage, it is completely comprehensive and supports all Key Stages, but our initial focus was on supporting Key Stage 4 pupils.

### How do you use CENTURY in your school?

We initially focused on Key Stage 4 as a simple way to embed CENTURY into the department, but what we're really interested in for the future is using the courses that are focused on functional topics and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

CENTURY will be especially useful for helping students to catch up on learning, because it provides us with data that helps us identify where students' weaknesses are as a whole cohort and then allows us to set work to help them as individuals with the areas that they need to improve on.

We already know that a weakness in our Year 7 is non-fiction, for example, so our subject mentor can either assign specific nuggets from CENTURY's Key Stage 3 Reading course or even set pupils the whole course and let the AI do the work.

### How is CENTURY supporting teachers and support staff?

The diagnostics advise students on the content for them to cover based on how they perform, so that both reduces the workload for staff and provides us with data that will help us to plan effectively. We had wanted something that was measurable, and both in a leadership role and also as a class teacher, the data that CENTURY gives you ownership of is phenomenal.