



Pate's Grammar School



Pate's Grammar School

# How Cloud Design Box Helped Pate's Grammar School Build on Microsoft 365 Innovation



CloudDesignBox



SharePoint



Teams



Microsoft 365

## Introduction

# School Overview

A highly selective and progressive institution, Pate's Grammar School is dedicated to achieving excellence in every aspect. Their results are comparable with any top school in the country, and they strive to prepare their students for success in the real world.

This commitment to purposeful innovation has since been recognised through the school's status as a Microsoft Elevate Showcase School, acknowledging its use of Microsoft tools and resources to create dynamic, engaging and future-focused learning environments.



**Geoff Worth**

Assistant Headteacher

## The Challenge

# Initial Technological Limitations

Before adopting Cloud Design Box, the school faced significant challenges with its digital infrastructure. The existing platform, Plato – a Moodle-type VLE environment – proved inadequate.

“It didn’t do the class memberships properly... It certainly wasn’t very good at teacher marking and the way that fed into generating mark books.”



**Geoff Worth**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Key Issues



**Limited class membership functionalities.**



**Ineffective teacher marking and resource management.**



**Lack of integration with Microsoft Office 365.**



**Minimal collaboration capabilities among students.**

## Implementation and Rollout

# Rollout Experience

The implementation of Cloud Design Box was straightforward and efficient. Worth highlights the exceptional support provided by the Cloud Design Box team: *“The guys there know what they’re doing... I was really keen to push the envelope on what the platform might do for us.”*

## Key Aspects of the Rollout

- **Personalised support and custom configurations**
- **Seamless integration with existing Microsoft infrastructure.**
- **Rapid response to implementation queries and requests.**

## Innovative Use of OneNote

- **Developed pastoral notebooks for each student with specific permissions for teachers.**
- **Automated updates based on changes in student groups and house memberships.**

### Microsoft innovation in practice

Pate’s Grammar School’s later recognition as a Microsoft Elevate Showcase School reflects the same forward-thinking approach described in this project: using Microsoft 365, Teams, SharePoint and OneNote not simply as standalone tools, but as part of a structured digital environment that supports teaching, learning, pastoral care and operational efficiency.

## Benefits Realised

# Operational Efficiency and Time Savings

The shift to Cloud Design Box significantly streamlined administrative and teaching processes. Worth emphasises, *“As long as you’re getting those subject codes correct... it just works. I don’t have to worry about it.”*

## Enhanced Student Experience



**Consistent look and feel  
across all subject sites.**



**Easy access to  
necessary resources.**



**Integration with Microsoft  
Teams for assignments  
and homework.**



Benefits Realised

# Staff and Resource Management



**Efficient management of student groups and memberships.**



**Custom configurations to meet specific needs, such as pastoral care.**



**Continuous improvements and updates without additional costs.**



## Unexpected Benefits

# Resilience During COVID-19

The school's early adoption of Cloud Design Box was hugely beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Worth reflects, *"We were certainly well ahead of the curve on remote teaching... it was far more straightforward to jump into that space when it arose."*

## Parental Involvement



**Deliberate decision to keep parental access limited to maintain focus on student and teacher interactions.**



**Enhanced safeguarding responsibilities managed effectively within the platform.**



## Conclusion

# Geoff Worth's Recommendation

- ✔ "Cloud Design Box functionality makes it easy for students so that they can access the resources easily, and that's our priority."
- ✔ "The Cloud Design Box guys turn stuff around... the time scales at which they work are impressive."

## Overall Impact

- ✔ Improved student access to educational resources.
- ✔ Streamlined teacher workflows and administrative tasks.
- ✔ A reliable and adaptable platform that evolves with the school's needs.

Since implementing Cloud Design Box, Pate's continued development of its Microsoft 365 environment has formed part of a wider culture of digital innovation, now recognised through its Microsoft Elevate Showcase School status.

## Final Thoughts

Geoff Worth summarises the experience with Cloud Design Box: "It's always intuitively obvious... using Microsoft in the background to scaffold the whole thing together... it just looks entirely familiar. That really helps."



**Geoff Worth**  
Assistant Headteacher



# We'd love to hear from you

With a combination of tools in Microsoft 365 and Cloud Design Box's purpose-built education solutions, we help senior leaders find more time in their day to focus on what matters.

## Get in touch:

CALL

+44 (0)1482 688890

VISIT

[clouddesignbox.co.uk](https://clouddesignbox.co.uk)

EMAIL

[info@clouddesignbox.co.uk](mailto:info@clouddesignbox.co.uk)

© 2024 Cloud Design Box Ltd. All rights reserved. Cloud Design Box is a registered trademark of Cloud Design Box Ltd. Microsoft, Microsoft 365, SharePoint and Teams are trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies. Cloud Design Box disclaims any proprietary interest in trademarks and tradenames other than its own. E&OE.

