


HINCHINGBROOKE & TUTOR DOCTOR

Case Study





“ We have found Tutor Doctor Cambridge to be a great company to work with. The staff are efficient and communicate in a timely fashion, whilst at the same time recognising all of the other pulls on our time. They are really flexible in terms of the tutoring they set up, but are great at giving advice on what they think has worked well for other schools. The more closely we work with the company, the more effective the tutoring we set up together. We do all of our tutoring online, and although this was first set up in school (so students stayed with us after school), this is now so accepted by students, we are able to have students accessing the tutoring online from home. ”

- ANNA NIGHTINGALE

Vice Principal, Hinchingsbrooke School

Hinchingsbrooke School is a larger-than-average school that has pupils aged 11-18. It is part of the ACES Multi-Academy Trust and is situated on the outskirts of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Founded in 1565, it was originally situated on land that now includes what is Huntingdon Town and comprised the grounds of Hinchingsbrooke House. The student roll for Years 7 to 11 is 350 pupils, and there are currently 414 students in the sixth form (2025).

In 2021, Ofsted judged the school as Good and stated: “Leaders are ambitious for pupils’ personal development as well as for their academic achievement. Pupils have access to a wide range of subjects, including the arts and sports. Their well-being is a high priority for staff, governors and the trust.”

HINCHINGBROOKE, TUTOR DOCTOR AND THE NTP

Hinchingbrooke first approached Tutor Doctor in 2021 during a time when the UK Government launched the NTP (National Tutoring Programme). This was a programme fundamentally set up to support disadvantaged students most impacted by the COVID pandemic. The government provided fairly significant additional funding to schools to be used with accredited Tuition Partners, of which Tutor Doctor Cambridge was one. The purpose was to help bring students back up to their 'expected level' of learning for their age group after lockdown. Hinchingbrooke School took this challenge very seriously, and we embarked on some online learning for individual students as well as groups of students. They worked across core curriculum subjects: English, Maths & Sciences.

- CARLA BLACK

All tutors with Tutor Doctor need to have an up-to-date DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Certificate and attend regular Safeguarding and Prevention training. They must also adhere to the most up-to-date KCSiE guidelines released by the Government. This is essential to their understanding of safeguarding procedures, and we have internal protocols to ensure any reports are effectively communicated across all responsible bodies.

OUR POSITIVE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

The majority of our work with Hinchingsbrooke has been with group programmes, but in some cases, it's important and required to provide a 1:1 solution. We work with the students online using the Lessonspace platform, where materials are pre-loaded by the tutor to work through according to a list of target topics provided by the school. The software means we can have the sessions with the students at school and/or at home. All sessions are automatically recorded, and the Tutor Doctor office team and the school can review the content, engagement, and progress. This approach offers further and full peace of mind when it comes to safeguarding.



Generally, these are revision programmes for GCSE students in Year 10 or 11 heading towards exams who may receive additional funding via their EHCP or PP/PP+ budgets. We have also tutored some A-Level Subjects where catch-up sessions were required.

Finally, we have students who work within the Alternative Provision Unit of the school who have specific needs within specific subject areas. They can be from any year group and aren't accessing a full timetable at the school.

“ We have gone from offering just the core subjects to Year 11, to adding other EBACC subjects to Year 11 and 10, including a summer school and some subjects in Year 13! The tutors are great and feedback on the students' levels of engagement in addition to any subject or technical issues, which means we can then get involved in school and support the tutoring. ”

- ANNA NIGHTINGALE
Vice Principal, Hinchingsbrooke School

The tutoring sessions on the Lessonspace platform are usually conducted with a tutor working with 1 to 3 students at a time, covering core subjects such as Maths, English, and Science. While the platform can accommodate up to 5 students in a group, we've found that the ideal number is 3, as this allows for better engagement and more effective communication throughout the session.

Tutor Doctor works closely with a dedicated school liaison contact at Hinchingsbrooke to coordinate contact details for parents, split students into ability groups, match them to tutors, and set up the systems for monitoring and attendance. It's usually a six-week programme that runs after school twice a week at 4:30 pm (when the students are back at home). The school pays for these sessions, but they emphasise the importance of attendance, putting a price tag on non-attendance (unless for a very good reason). This seems to have worked well with attendance at a high level and offering consistently good feedback.

Typically, sessions are one hour at a time, and a full timetable is agreed with all parties well before the start date.

We are delivering more small group online revision programmes more frequently, and Hinchingsbrooke has been brilliant to work with as things have naturally evolved over the 4 years we've been working together. We review each programme fully, often in person, ensuring we get the right balance of coverage, personalisation and engagement in the tuition.




“Attendance is great, because students have short, sharp bursts with good quality tutors. We have done this for a couple of years now, and I would say it is one of the interventions which has the biggest impact on the outcomes of students. I would thoroughly recommend the company!”

- ANNA NIGHTINGALE
Vice Principal, Hinchingsbrooke School

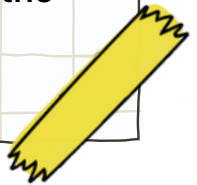
OUR TRANSFORMATIVE SUMMER REVISION PROGRAMME

2025 will be the third year that Tutor Doctor has run a 6-week, one-hour-a-day revision programme during the summer for Hinchingsbrooke School students. The school contributes financially towards the sessions, but they are also financially supported by the parents, partially. This is across the core subjects, and Tutor Doctor manages up to 80 children within any one programme.



“I also took part in the summer tutoring programme in which every week I was tutored online for an hour every day in a new subject, which would alternate every week. I spent 5 of the 6 weeks of holidays participating in Biology, Maths, Physics and Chemistry revision sessions. Throughout my experience, I was able to receive beneficial advice from the tutors as well as helpful guides, links and resources which allowed me to continue my revision outside of the online tuition sessions. Personally, I found this extremely beneficial as even now I am able to use the notes and pre-recorded revision lesson videos to my advantage, using them when I feel stuck or lost with my revision and need to go back to the basics or review previous revision.”

- Student, Year 11, Hinchingsbrooke



Supporting those students who will benefit most is the objective. The school, in deciding on the cohort of students to be on the programme, considers both those who are most disadvantaged, but also selects those who, with a little concentrated tuition, could excel within their subject areas.

Everything is tracked very closely each time. Tutor Doctor provides access to session reports and attendance figures. This gives visibility to all parties and helps keep on top of managing any absenteeism and engagement to deliver the best return on investment for the school.

OUR ADAPTIVE PARTNERSHIP THROUGH CHANGE & REDUCED SCHOOL BUDGETS

We started working with Hinchingsbrooke when the NTP funding support was being offered, and the school could leverage Tutor Doctor Cambridge as an approved NTP Tuition Provider. These funds are no longer available to schools, and with budgets increasingly being squeezed, it is vital for Tutor Doctor and its school partners to work collaboratively. It is our goal to develop a professional and flexible working relationship to optimise the spend for each programme, and to continue to help support the desired outcomes. In this case, helping to improve GCSE results year on year.

The outcome of this collaboration has fostered a strong, dependable relationship, ensuring consistency in our work. Since the start of our partnership, we have proudly tutored 303 students at Hinchingsbrooke School.





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