MyTutor

The Online Tutoring Playbook

for schools

Your guide to delivering the most impactful online tuition for students

Contents

Why online tutoring?

Why tutoring?

When students are struggling with a tricky topic or not quite making their expected grades, they often need personalised, individualised help to plug learning gaps and get them feeling confident about their exams - but with bigger class sizes, schools often just don't have the time, and learners end up getting left behind. That's where tutoring comes in.

The EEF Teaching & Learning Toolkit recognises both 1:1 and 3:1 (small group) tutoring as a high impact strategy for giving students the boost they need.

"We are on track to have narrowed our gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged from 13% to 2%."
Kingsley Academy

"We've seen in our Year 7s and 8s that, of the children that have engaged in tutoring, over half will increase their marks significantly."
Basildon Academies Trust

"Their self-confidence afterwards, that's something you can't quantify. You don't have numerical data on it, but you physically see it with your eyes. And you see their self-confidence grow."
Ryde Academy

"Pupils who attended MyTutor lessons made at least 3x the progress of a control group."
Bohunt Education Trust

Why online?

No local tutors? No problem! With online tutoring, students are matched with the best possible tutor for them, not just who's nearby. It also allows for the greatest flexibility - you can fit tutoring into your students' schedules, and do it in the location that works best for them.

"I really enjoyed the digital aspect of the tutoring sessions as I prefer to work on a computer."

Student

"They build good relationships with their tutors, they love talking to them, and they're very happy to engage on camera and microphone."

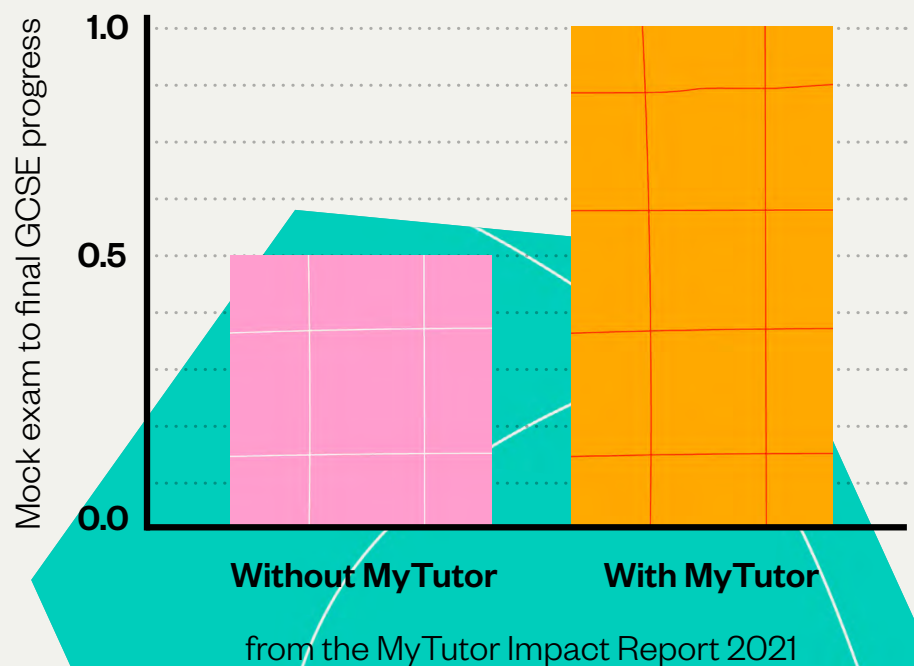Basildon Academies Trust

Why us?

So far, we've provided 1:1 and 3:1 tuition to more than 200,000 students, delivered 1 million lessons, and partnered with 1300+ schools and trusts. We're here to support teachers and students alike. On average, students who use MyTutor improve by 1 whole grade after ten sessions - that's 2.5x the progress of their peers.

"MyTutor is one of four providers we used from the National Tutoring Programme suite in 2021, and it came out on top."

Basildon Academies Trust

"MyTutor have been complete partners – different schools have different needs and MyTutor worked with all of them, working very swiftly to adapt. It's been very much a 'we'."

Bohunt Education Trust

Mock exam to final GCSE progress

1.0

0.5

0.0

Without MyTutor   With MyTutor

from the MyTutor Impact Report 2021

The pros of undergrad tutors

We match students with vetted and trained undergraduates and recent grads.
But why do we choose them over qualified teachers?

At MyTutor, we're champions of the **near-peer relationship.** Students relate better to those closer to them in age, and they often feel inspired by them - being tutored by someone they see as a peer helps to raise confidence and aspiration, as well as grades.

Tutors close in age aren't designed to replace teachers, but to be a natural complement. Studies have shown that the near-peer relationship is highly effective and packed with benefits, including the fact that near-peers deeply understand the exams that students are going through - they did them recently, after all! Imparting that exam wisdom to students who are preparing for them has been proven to raise their confidence and lower exam anxiety.

"It is incredibly rewarding and heart-warming to see my pupils' confidence and abilities develop week on week."

Natalia, Tutor

"The tutors are within a few years of our pupils, and there is a lot of research to back up peer mentoring as a potential motivator.

There were tutors and graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds running sessions who shared their own stories with our kids, delivering inspirational talks to our pupils."

Bohunt Education Trust

"Because the tutors are university students, they're closer in age to the pupils than most of their teachers, and this helps them to cultivate almost a sibling relationship. They speak the same language – including emojis – and they're able to make our pupils feel more relaxed in the tutoring environment. It's really tapping into something that we otherwise couldn't offer at school."

Lodge Park Academy

"Having tutors who were closer in age to pupils definitely inspired and motivated them to learn and apply themselves."

Richard Rose Central Academy

When to choose a different type of tutor?

It's worth noting that for SEND students with complex needs, undergrads may not be the best placed to give them the help they need. For these students, someone more specialist will likely give them the best support.

How can schools fund online tutoring?

There are multiple funding pots available to schools for tutoring, which can be used separately or in combination to subsidise your programmes. These are:

The National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

The NTP is ring-fenced government funding that schools can use with approved NTP partners (like us!). The funding provides a minimum of £67.50 per Pupil Premium pupil, which can be used to subsidise tuition up to 50% for any pupil as you see fit. This means up to £9 for an £18 lesson. And don't forget, funds can't be carried over to next year so make sure you're using it all!

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium funds can be used for online tutoring as it's been recognised by the EEF as a high-impact intervention for disadvantaged pupils. The most common way our schools fund online tutoring is through a combination of Pupil Premium and the NTP. This year, Pupil Premium funding has increased to £2.9 billion, or £1035 per eligible pupil.

Recovery premium

The Recovery Premium is part of the government's package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by the pandemic, focusing on Pupil Premium students and pupils in specialist settings. Whilst it can't be used in combination with NTP funds, it can be used in isolation or together with other forms of funding to support tutoring.

16-19 Tuition Fund

As the name suggests, the 16-19 Tuition Fund is ring-fenced for tuition and available for pupils aged 16-19 whose study has been disrupted in English, Maths and other subjects, including vocational courses. It can be used to cover small groups (3:1) and 1:1 tuition, and much like the NTP doesn't carry over to the next year.

Existing school budgets

Finally, schools can use their own budgets in combination with government funding pots to cover the costs of tutoring.

Online tutoring best practice

5 ways to maximise impact

How do I choose which children get online tutoring?

This is an important question, and one which each school answers differently. You may choose to give online tutoring solely to lower-attaining, disadvantaged students, or you may look to those who are on the cusp of hitting their grades and need an extra push. Who you choose may change throughout the year, as some students could benefit from early tutoring to address the 'summer slide', and others may need extra confidence before resits or mock exams.

> **"When we were introduced to MyTutor, we took a data-driven approach to choosing the students, identifying what we referred to as 'key tipper' students – those that we believed could make the transition from those 2s and 3s to 4s, 5s or above."**
>
> Ryde Academy

> **"When selecting students for the programme, we started with our most vulnerable, disadvantaged students – those in receipt of the pupil premium grant, children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), looked after children, or those under social care. Within that group, we then looked at those with the biggest learning gaps, and identified 3:1 groups based on common gaps in knowledge."**
>
> Basildon Academies Trust

What are the best ways to get parent/student buy-in?

To have the best chance of success, students and their families/guardians need to be onboard. We know that for some students, if not introduced correctly, tutoring could feel like a punishment for falling behind rather than a way to help them get ahead. Some schools have introduced online tutoring under the umbrella of 'out-of-hours learning' - students aren't being bombarded with homework that doesn't really help them, but personalised support that is tailored to their needs. Having an embedded tutoring programme can demonstrate to parents that a school is being proactive in helping their child.

> **"To engage parents, I've also recorded my own instructional video about MyTutor, what it is and how it all works. We've moved to a video approach because when you send a letter, with our parents, we've found that they don't engage particularly well – whereas video, with a personal touch from someone they know, works really well."**
>
> Ryde Academy

"My advice to any other schools considering using MyTutor would be to lean into it. If you take steps to really embed the programme – we did an assembly on it, we called and wrote letters home to parents, the Headteacher sent texts to students to remind them of lessons – then you'll see the true impact."

Lodge Park Academy

"This year we have introduced the concept of 'leader boards' to accelerate school and pupil-level engagement in tutoring."

Academies Enterprise Trust

When is the best time to run online tutoring?

Online tutoring is flexible and designed to fit around your schedule. Some primary schools prefer to run tutoring sessions before school starts. Secondary schools often find that students are most engaged when sessions are run in-school, but after school hours. The most popular hours for online tutoring are between 3-6pm, with 3pm being the most used time of day. More and more, teachers are establishing what they call a 'mixed-economy classroom' - online tuition happens during lessons, and their peers who aren't being tutored will take part in other forms of online learning.

"One change we're making is to move the sessions from after school, which was sometimes quite difficult to get students to engage with, although we did reasonably well with 70% attendance, to a timetabled in-school lesson."

Ryde Academy

"Once we understood the different funding pathways being offered by the government, set up our 'tutoring lab' computer room, and appointed a middle leader member of staff to act as tutoring coordinator, it all ran smoothly."

Basildon Academies Trust

How do we make sure teachers and tutors are aligned?

Tutors should make teachers' lives simpler, not harder. Teachers communicate the individual needs of each student ahead of time, so tutors know exactly where the gaps are. Schools that have seen the most impact tend to have a tutoring 'champion' - a member of staff who is the point of contact for all things tutoring, and helps embed it within their school culture.

"The tutors are very independent. We found that, once we provided good-quality information up-front, the tutors were able to take that and run with it."

Basildon Academies Trust

> **"Each school appointed a Tutoring Lead, and the Leads came together in a core group to share best practice and to explore implementation methods."**
>
> Bohunt Education Trust

> **"Schools who appointed a tutoring 'champion' saw better results. We tackled this by sharing the successes of the programme – some of our schools' results at grades 4+ and 5+ leapt by double digits in 2019 for instance."**
>
> Academies Enterprise Trust

How do we measure success?

Thanks to tech, monitoring the progress of students is simple. We keep tabs on attendance rates, punctuality, and completed and upcoming lessons, so that you can be sure tutoring is having the impact you want. Outside of assessments, many teachers tell us that they observe a behavioural improvement in their students - they're more confident, more motivated, and have higher aspirations.

> **"When you talk to the students, they certainly feel like the tuition has had an impact; the majority agreed that it's been very useful for them. Lots of them say they feel more confident and that they've made more progress in their subjects as a result."**
>
> Basildon Academies Trust

> **"Once we saw the ease of monitoring pupils' progress on the online platform and how high the quality of tutoring was, we decided to include this into our strategy for the year."**
>
> Richard Rose Central Academy

Getting started with MyTutor

If you're unsure whether online tutoring is right for your needs, or need some help deciding exactly how it should be done, our friendly team are on hand - we're always here to advise you on everything from funding to logistics and everything in between.

Once you've decided to bring online tuition into your school's strategy, we're here to make sure that getting it set up is as simple as possible. Running a programme with MyTutor is straightforward, and can be set up in just 3 weeks.

Step one:
Choose your MyTutor programme

Think about which students and which subjects you'd like tutoring for, as well as the time of day that'll work best for you. Our team can help you set up a programme that meets your specific needs - whether you're looking to give students a boost before resits, mocks, or exam season, or you're looking for consistent, year-round tuition.

Step two:
Get set up

Your dedicated Education Partnerships Manager will help you kick things off and answer any questions you may have. They'll advise you on getting MyTutor integrated into your school, and give you some pro tips for the best possible engagement.

Step three:
Get learning

Students will be matched to tutors based on their needs, and they'll have 55-minute lessons in small groups (3:1) or individually (1:1). All lessons are recorded, so students can watch them back afterwards. After each session, tutors will write a lesson report that includes what they worked on, what each student achieved, and what the focus will be next time.

11

Let's chat

To find out more about how online tuition can support your students, get in touch with our team. We'd love to hear about your school's needs.

T: 0203 695 1974
E: partnerships@mytutor.co.uk
schools.mytutor.co.uk