

John Lennon Gymnasium

The Digital School

A unique school with a unique name and mission - John Lennon Gymnasium (High School) is developing a schoolwide concept for digital education to ensure that its students become responsible citizens in the digital world.

The school chose itslearning, after stringent evaluation, because they found the platform to be transparent and to have all the functionalities required by the school administration to interlink all internal committees and working groups.

The first result of this new way of working was a considerable increase in quality in curriculum-related processes at the school.

Today, using itslearning as its base, the school has put a virtual school onto the Internet, complete with classes for each year and subject.



Berlin,
Germany



790
Students



80
Teachers



Focus on digital
citizenship



Overview

- John Lennon Gymnasium, founded in 1885 and renamed in 1994, is a high school in Berlin
- The school is committed to a high academic standard, enthusiastic teaching and global openness
- It has received awards for its digital excellence as well as for its exemplary career coaching

2018

Year implemented itslearning

"We use itslearning to review and create the school's internal curriculum and put it into practise. We continuously reflect and revise the curriculum."

Nico Wirtz

Teacher

Digital School Development Coordinator



“The climate at our school changed dramatically after we implemented itslearning. Teachers and students now work as a team. We became a community - the school administration, teachers and students - all connected through itslearning.”

Dr. Doris Hellmuth,

Acting Principal, John Lennon Gymnasium

Project with a purpose

The main thrust of ‘The Digital School’ project for John Lennon Gymnasium was to competently and educationally reflect the present and future needs of digital natives - the term used to describe people who have grown up in the digital era.

Right from the beginning the school committee assigned this task had the aim of using digital media in an enlightened and functional way, and thus increase the media skills of students in a targeted manner.

This required a functioning digital infrastructure in which hardware, software and digital organizational platforms work in synergy and complement each other. But, to function in a way that truly benefits the school, teachers must also be given appropriate training to be able to use the technology provided efficiently and pass on the necessary skills and knowledge to the students.

Using Plans in itslearning to deliver results

To encourage and boost cooperation, John Lennon Gymnasium used the itslearning LMS to ensure that all planning, teaching and organization of grades were in line with the school’s internal curriculum - SchiCs.

Acting Principal Dr. Doris Hellmuth says this was done quickly, efficiently and systematically by using the itslearning Plans tool.

“The itslearning planner is where interdisciplinary skills are combined with materials and activities. It gives students a logical structure for following lessons and is a useful repository for teachers to place content, resources and assignments.

“Besides planning and facilitating lessons, the platform can be used effectively for transparent and functional planning of joint projects, initiatives and agreements - such as departmental and committee work.”

The new framework curriculum in Berlin calls on schools

to integrate the basic curriculum of media education and language education into subjects in the school’s internal curriculum.

John Lennon Gymnasium resolves this complex challenge by using Plans in itslearning which makes it possible to directly combine curriculum competency with the school’s subject groups, and to clearly arrange the joint planning process during subject meetings as well.

A competency distribution report clearly shows where skillsets need to be allocated or reassigned, thus enabling interdisciplinary planning and development.

Integrating digital learning and teaching

The SchiCs, together with the associated materials, can thus be copied and adapted by teachers for their own lessons without any disruption.

The school also makes it a point to constantly expand its pool of shared, copyright-free resources. Students have an overview of the current lesson plan, tasks and materials on their course pages in itslearning.

This encourages independent development, consolidation of content and promotes diversity of social forms in the classroom. Learning paths permit a more differentiated teaching and learning in terms of perspectives and change the role of teachers, from teachers to learning coaches.

Significant development and improvement

As competency is linked to interactive materials in the platform from the very beginning, it’s easy to get feedback on how students are performing using various evaluation mechanisms and advance reporting in itslearning.

This helps teachers draw relevant conclusions and react to trends earlier than previously possible. itslearning offers functional tools for structured development and has led to a significant improvement in the quality of teaching at John Lennon Gymnasium.

