



Abacus Case Study

The Sri Lankan School Muscat, Oman

The Sri Lankan School Muscat is a community school with 25 years of proud history and modern facilities. The school educates 1,134 students of 17 different nationalities from foundation stage to year 13 (ages 4-18). It prides itself in achieving the highest academic excellence with several students appearing in the top ten world rankings for Edexcel International GCSE and International A Level results.



Having only started using **Abacus** in January 2015 to teach primary mathematics to their 5-11 year olds, they have already witnessed an improvement in their children's maths skills. We spoke to one of the school's Key Stage 2 teachers, Jagath Ranasinghe, to find out how **Abacus** has helped his students to improve their maths skills.

How has Abacus helped your students improve their maths skills?

It's important that the children enjoy what they're learning. The children find it interesting, and best of all, fun. This motivates them to engage with mathematical principles and inspires them to practice in and out of the classroom. One of the biggest advantages of using **Abacus** is having the ability to assign homework before the weekend using the ActiveLearn platform. This allows the children to revisit mathematical concepts taught throughout the week in class and build on them independently at home at the weekend. We find that this practice really helps to develop their mental capacity to understand particular concepts.

As a particular example, I recently demonstrated a lesson to a Ministry of Education of Oman delegation where I used the Function Machine game with a class of Year 4 students. I started with some simple questions but then moved on to some more complex ones involving negative numbers and was surprised that the children were able to solve them, even though I hadn't taught them negative numbers yet. The MoE representatives told me that they were impressed with the children's mathematical skills and their levels of engagement in the lesson.

How has it helped you and your teaching colleagues?

The ability to assign homework online using the platform saves us time and allows us to focus on in-class teaching. Each teacher and student has their own log in details to the online system and we are able to assign homework to all students in a class, or to individual students that require more practice or support. Using ActiveLearn, we're now also able to track the progress of the children's homework. This is great for monitoring each child's progress but also allows us to produce reports for the school and for parents.

We have also found that **Abacus** is great for all kinds of teacher and teaching style. Not every primary school teacher is a maths specialist, so the lesson plans included in the teacher toolkit provides the foundation for us to apply our own style that we feel is best for the children's learning. Also, we've found that the ActiveLearn online platform is very easy to use so you don't have to be a computer expert to use it!

Can you tell us a bit more about how you use the built-in teacher toolkit?

In addition to assigning homework and planning lessons, we mainly use it for the games. The children's favourites are Cloud Clash and Balloon Pops. We also use the interactive tools such as the Frog Method, Function Machine and the Clock. We've found that these games and tools are all effective ways of explaining concepts and practicing them with the children, particularly in groups.

How has Abacus changed the way that maths is taught in your school?

As well as saving time for teachers, making it more fun for students it's made us work more collaboratively. Before we used **Abacus**, each teacher used to only teach maths in their own classrooms. Now, we sometimes get a whole year together in the main hall and teach lessons by connecting our laptops to large TVs. We've found that this makes group work even more interesting and fun for the children.

What is your school particularly proud of?

- We've achieved the highest average scale points among all schools in Oman for all TIMSS and PIRLS tests.
- We're achieving the best Edexcel results in the region.
- We have been the Boys Basketball Champions among all international schools in Muscat for nine consecutive years!

Test drive Abacus!

You can follow in Jagath's and the Sri Lankan School of Muscat's footsteps by signing up for a 60-day free trial of **Abacus** at:

www.pearsonglobalschools.com/trial

