

Organisation: Shotton Hall School
Location: Peterlee, County Durham
Learners: Approximately 1000
Using bksb since: July 2006

 **What is bksb?**

bksb is an award winning, nationally recognised suite of basic, key and Functional Skills assessments and resources for Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. As a market leader, we support the needs of a diverse range of organisations across the UK including Training Providers, Schools, Employers, Prisons, the Armed Forces and the majority of FE Colleges. Covering from Pre-Entry to Key Skills Level 3, we produce the widest ranging assessments and resources available, providing you with a one solution fits all approach. This encourages a best practice philosophy throughout.

Following detailed discussions with the County Durham 14-19 Team, **bksb** assessments and learning resources are being used at schools across the region to revolutionise their approach to basic and key skill assessment and development. This case demonstrates how **bksb** can be used successfully in any school setting to improve learners' skills and their chances of ongoing success.



■ Background

Shotton Hall School is a co-educational 11-16 comprehensive school based in Peterlee, County Durham. The school is part of a consortium of schools across County Durham using bksb, and has been doing so since July 2006.

When Section 96 was introduced by the DfES in 2000, schools were able to offer qualifications that were historically offered only by FE, such as GNVQs and ALAN tests (Adult Literacy And Numeracy). ALAN tests, in particular, would allow those learners struggling with GCSE Maths or English to provide some evidence of their capabilities. Each successful ALAN test is equivalent to half a GCSE, and as such carries both UCAS and school achievement and attainment table points thus leading to the tests' increased significance. This, along with the impending introduction of Functional Skills, means that many schools are now proactively adopting a strategy for **diagnostically** assessing their learner's individual skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT and providing **individual** learning programmes. **bksb** provides the best practice vehicle to achieve this.

■ What Shotton Hall School say:

"**bksb** is an ideal tool/resource for students and staff. It has enabled me to assess and diagnose learners' literacy/numeracy strengths and weaknesses. I have then been able to progress learners onto suitable learning routes tailored to individual needs. I have found that it is a motivational tool as learners can look at their skills themselves, and take some ownership for their own improvement. I have also found that once a learner achieves one qualification it encourages them to want to progress onto a higher level, and other learners in their peer group to want to sit the assessments and improve their skills."

Carol Bell, Tutor, Shotton Hall School

SHOTTON HALL SCHOOL



"Achievement through
Partnership"

A Specialist Arts College



Mr Ian Mowbray - Head of Shotton Hall School, presents Rebecca with a certificate

■ What the pupils say:

"I loved the **bksb** workbooks and being able to sit the assessments on the computer. It has helped with my barb test to get into the army and made me much happier sitting my other school exams."

Rebecca Morton, Pupil, Shotton Hall School