



## SACRED HEART COLLEGE – JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

### Marshall Cavendish Online Transforms Learning At Sacred Heart College

#### 1. BACKGROUND

Marshall Cavendish Online (MC Online) has been carving inroads into making a quality education available to all around the world.

The leading e-learning solutions provider in Singapore, MC Online's premier services have also gone global, empowering over 400 schools worldwide.

Sacred Heart College, a Catholic school in Johannesburg, South Africa is one such school that has experienced the life-changing effect of integrating MC Online's Learning Portal into its lesson curriculum.

#### 2. PROFILE

Sacred Heart College is located in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. Its Primary School has been using MC Online's Learning Portal since May 2012.

In total, 309 students from Grades 1 – 6 currently benefit from the portal's multimedia activities and lessons.

Breakdown of Students using MC Online Learning Portal by Grade	Number of Students
Grade 1	72
Grade 2	45
Grade 3	52
Grade 4	49
Grade 5	41
Grade 6	50

#### 3. INCORPORATING MC ONLINE'S LEARNING PORTAL INTO LESSONS

Prior to the integration of the Learning Portal into lesson curriculum, the students were given computer lessons to familiarize them with the basics of digital literacy.

14 Primary School teachers were also trained to use MC Online's Learning Portal's curriculum content for lesson instruction.

The portal serves as both a teaching tool and a form of lesson supplementation, enriching classroom learning and keeping students engaged.

The students currently use the portal's English, mathematics and science programmes for 30 minutes each week and already, much progress in terms of students' class performance and test scores has been observed.

##### **Organisation**

Sacred Heart College

##### **Solution**

Marshall Cavendish Online Learning Portal

##### **Users**

All Grade 1 – 6 students

##### **Outcome**

Increased student engagement and an overall improvement in students' English and mathematics skills

##### **Date**

May 2012

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### 4. RESULTS

Built upon a solid pedagogical framework infused with innovative multimedia activities, MC Online's Learning Portal offers interactive learning tools that motivate students to learn independently.

The fun activities and tutorials enrich students' learning processes and help facilitate collaborative discussion in class.

#### 4.1. ENGAGING EVEN RELUCTANT LEARNERS

"All our students love the tutorials as well as the activities. They can't wait to access MC Online's Learning Portal every week to do mathematics, science or English," said IT teacher, Mrs Rina Basson.

The increased student engagement has given rise to drastic improvements in student achievement and higher order cognitive abilities, particularly apparent in students' English and mathematics skills.

In Grade 2 English classes using the portal's Reading Stars programme, the improvement was seen in students' comprehension skills and an overall increase in participation in class activities - students became noticeably more vocal, reading to each other and using the vocabulary they learnt from the Learning Portal's English curriculum.

"English is now such fun!" exclaimed a boy in the English class who had previously been bored and unmotivated to learn.

"With MC Online's on-screen curriculum, we have been able to draw in even our reluctant learners. The assessment of their work has also encouraged children to make sure that they get the answers right," noted Mrs Basson.

#### 4.2. INSPIRING CONFIDENCE IN STUDENTS

Grade 2 students are not the only ones to have reaped the benefits of MC Online's digital learning experience. A Grade 6 student whose mother tongue is not English commented that MC Online's English activities have really helped her develop her vocabulary and gain confidence in speaking the language.

MC Online's mathematics programme has also helped Grade 6 students improve their mathematics skills. This was most notably seen in their increased understanding and application of concepts such as addition and subtraction of fractions. As Mrs Adele Piccolo, Deputy Principal of Academics surmised, "Students are better able to set out the steps more logically."

The exceptionally strong link between the portal's mathematics programmes and the concepts in math books is seen as the reason for the added depth to students' comprehension of mathematics principles.

"We like the fact that the programme is well thought out and that the activities tie in with what we are doing in class," said Mrs Basson.

Mrs Piccolo also noted that the real-life examples in the portal's multimedia activities, such as counting change to learn the concept of Money were extremely helpful and gave students a sense of empowerment as they do not normally have the chance to handle money. Overall, the Grade 6 students experienced a rise in mathematics test scores, with the class' average grade increasing from 68% to an impressive 74% at the end-of-term exam.

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**4.3. ENHANCING TEACHING AND BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE**

With such outstanding results from just 30 minutes of using MC Online’s Learning Portal a week, teachers at Sacred Heart College have decided to increase the half hour digital learning sessions to at least an hour per week starting from 2013. The extra 30 minutes will enable teachers to engage more fully with the material and weave the portal’s e-learning activities into the school curriculum more effectively.

“We can use MC Online’s e-learning material at different points in the learning process as the progression is well-structured and the content is interesting,” noted Mrs Basson.

Students are also extremely excited with this extension of their allocated Learning Portal sessions. Mrs Basson noted that the children really enjoy engaging in the portal’s activities and would love to explore the platform more. MC Online’s science programme, with its vivid graphics and animated lessons, is particularly popular with the young learners. As one student enthused, “It makes what we do in class come alive!”

**4.4 NURTURING SELF-DIRECTED LEARNERS**

MC Online’s Learning Portal is a holistic learning solution that transforms education with its world-class interactive multimedia curriculum which facilitates self-directed learning. Students can access the digital platform any time and engage in personalized learning according to their own needs and abilities. As Mrs Basson summed up, “Students are all able to help themselves.”

A Grade 5 student added, “I really like MC Online’s mathematics curriculum because it can go as slowly or as fast as I want. I can learn at my own pace!”

Even parents are excited about MC Online’s Learning Portal. One enthusiastic father who tried out the portal’s activities himself said, “I quite enjoy doing the tasks with my daughter!”

Empowering learners with its innovative solutions, MC Online’s Learning Portal has indeed transformed the meaning of learning at Sacred Heart College.



**Grade 1 students exploring the interactive tools and activities available on MC Online’s English programme**

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**Grade 1 students engrossed in learning Singapore mathematics on MC Online's Learning Portal**



**Students learning English at their own pace on MC Online's Learning Portal**



**Mrs Robyn Picas, Principal of Sacred Heart College's Primary School handing out stickers to the Grade 1 students for the excellent improvement in their work after using MC Online's portal**