



# Oracle Academy and The Royal High School, Scotland

Case Study





George Smuga, Head Teacher, The Royal High School with Jane Richardson, Senior Regional Development Manager, Oracle and Wendy Reith, The Royal High School (right)

### **The Royal High School, Edinburgh**

The Royal High School, one of the oldest schools in Europe, joined the Oracle Academy in 2005 after head teacher, George Smuga, attended an Oracle Academy roadshow, which gave interested schools and colleges the opportunity to find out more information about the Academy. Mr Smuga says: "We were looking to work with a credible, proven partner to offer specialist technology teaching to our pupils.

The Oracle Academy course had excellent credentials. It is a global programme that has seen hundreds of teachers and students trained in the fundamentals of database programming. Schools require only minimal IT infrastructure to participate, the course is well structured and planned and it provides ongoing support for both teachers and students. We have been able to integrate the course relatively easily into our curriculum and our students have given us very positive feedback about their experience of the Academy to date. In addition, the course has allowed us to enhance our commitment to Enterprise Education through allowing our students to work with real companies providing real solutions to real problems."

There are currently nine sixth year students from The Royal High School, aged 17 and 18 years, participating in the Oracle Academy course.

### **Preparation for teachers**

To be able to teach the Oracle Academy syllabus, one or more teachers undertake approximately 120 hours of professional development, culminating in a week-long training course at the Oracle Academy Instructor's Institute currently held at the University of California (UCLA) in Los Angeles. Wendy Reith, PT Computing, volunteered to participate in the Oracle Academy teacher training course. She completed a pre-institute course lasting eight weeks, combining online lessons and web conferences with tests and guidance by a mentor. She then attended the completion course at the Instructor's Institute at UCLA, involving intensive training and a final exam. Having successfully completed her training and the exam, Ms Reith was certified as an Oracle Academy Instructor and authorised to teach the syllabus.

### **Ms Reith highlights the professional development of teachers as a plus point of the Oracle Academy.**

*"The Oracle Academy training was one of the best in-service courses that I have experienced," she says. "Whilst the online format made it flexible I had a weekly conference call with an Oracle mentor to provide me with extra support and direction. The week-long course in LA was hard work but invaluable. We had daily tuition from top Oracle professional trainers that gave us the skills and insights we needed to put into practice when we returned to teach the Oracle Academy curriculum in our schools. It was a lot to take in but we had been well prepared and we all worked hard to make sure we passed. There were more than 300 teachers from all over Europe and the United States attending the Institute. Sharing experiences and ideas with peers from abroad was as interesting and enlightening as the course itself."*





**Jane Richardson,  
Senior Regional  
Development Manager  
for Oracle in Scotland  
says:**

*“The Oracle Academy has a growing reputation for excellence in technology training. Oracle places great importance on developing the skills of the future workforce so that young people are better equipped for entering the business world. Through our strategic partnerships with secondary schools and colleges, we provide students with the opportunity to gain the technical and business skills they need to succeed in today’s ever advancing information age.”*

### **Oracle and education**

Oracle has a long-standing commitment to fostering lifelong learning and development worldwide. Oracle’s Education Initiatives are active in 46 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, involving over 700 educational institutions and approximately 130,000 students at school and higher education level. Oracle in EMEA has provided in excess of 760 million dollars in grant in kind through these programmes to date.

### **Oracle Academy**

The Oracle Academy educates students throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa, including Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Middle East, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania and the UK. The Academy curriculum was designed in collaboration with teachers to meet the unique needs of entry-level IT students (ages 15-19). The instructor-led program helps participating students to develop database design, programming, project management, presentation, and problem-solving skills. At the same time, participating teachers are supported with world-class training and professional development, and the latest database and online learning technologies. On completion of the course, students take an Academy exam and can also achieve Industry certification.

### **Oracle Academy in Scotland**

The Oracle Academy curriculum is accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), which means that any candidate who passes Oracle Academy units will gain automatic certification for the corresponding SQA modules within Higher Information Systems, Advanced Higher Information Systems, HNC Computing and HNC Computer Networking qualifications.

For more information about the Oracle Academy visit <http://academy.oracle.com> or contact:

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