Streamlining Taster Days with Admissions+: A First-Hand Success Story

Managing taster days for prospective students can be a daunting task, with countless moving parts to coordinate. However, with the right tools, even the most complex aspects of the admissions process can be simplified. In this blog, we'll share insights from an Admissions+ user who recently stepped into the admissions world and successfully organised large-scale taster days, thanks to the platform's robust features.

A Newcomer's Perspective on Admissions+

Our speaker comes from a unique background. After 14 years as a teacher, they transitioned into an admissions role at a large sixth form college in Southeast London with **around 750 students.** Without formal training on Admissions+ and no prior experience in admissions, they navigated their first taster day cycle with the help of the Admissions+ support team, which proved to be an invaluable resource. The support staff were readily available, providing guidance on everything from initial setup to troubleshooting in real-time, making the transition smoother than expected.

Tackling Taster Days Without the Traditional Hassles

Before using Admissions+, organising taster days was often a logistical nightmare. Schools relied on multiple Excel sheets, mail merges, and manual timetabling, which involved coordination across departments, leading to errors and time-consuming work. This “folder upon folder” approach made it difficult to manage communication, schedules, and room assignments efficiently.

The contrast with Admissions+ was significant. The platform allowed the admissions team to automate much of the setup, dramatically reducing the workload and improving accuracy. As our speaker emphasised, the platform’s communication tools and reusable templates allow for easy updates and clear applicant messaging—eliminating the need to rebuild documents year after year.

The Benefits of Using Admissions+ for Multi-Day Taster Events

This year, the school organised two taster days, **hosting over a thousand prospective students**. Here’s how Admissions+ helped them manage such a large event:

1. **Automatic Timetabling**: Once students registered, the system created individual timetables, detailing where and when each student needed to be. This automation eliminated the need for manual scheduling and ensured everyone had a smooth experience.
2. **Streamlined Check-Ins**: With automated registers and seamless sign-in processes, **managing hundreds of attendees** became more **efficient**. This minimised bottlenecks and created a more welcoming atmosphere for prospective students.
3. **Instant Communication**: Automated messaging features enabled the team to send essential information directly to students, ensuring everyone received updates promptly. From room numbers to session times, students knew exactly where to go.
4. **Flexible Scheduling Options**: The platform’s taster day setup wizard guided the admissions team through the entire setup process, making it easy for students to choose their schedules. Prospective students had the freedom to attend one or both days, accommodating those who might be visiting other schools.
5. **Customisable Options**: The team could set attendance rules—such as preventing students from selecting the same subject on both days or mandating attendance for specific sessions. This flexibility helped maintain an organised schedule that maximised the use of available spaces.

Positive Feedback from Students

The feedback from prospective students was overwhelmingly positive. They appreciated the streamlined booking process, which they found **straightforward and user-friendly**. Compared to other local institutions, where registration and scheduling could be confusing, the Admissions+ platform stood out for its clarity and efficiency.

Key Takeaways

For schools still relying on manual processes or struggling with outdated systems, Admissions+ offers a modern, user-friendly solution. Whether handling hundreds or thousands of students, the platform provides tools to manage everything from registration and communication to timetabling and check-in.

If your school hasn't yet embraced Admissions+ for taster days, consider the benefits of automation and clear communication. For our speaker, the transition to Admissions+ made organising their first taster days a success, even without prior admissions experience.

Ready to Simplify Your Admissions Process?

For schools interested in reducing the workload and enhancing the taster day experience, Admissions+ might just be the tool you need. Embrace automation and make your next taster day event a smooth, successful experience for both staff and students alike.