

OneFile: winner of the 2017 Queen's Award for Innovation

The word 'innovation' gets used a lot these days. But to be truly innovative, you have to create something that has never existed before. True innovation is rare, and should be rewarded.

So when we found out we'd won the 2017 Queen's Award for Innovation, we were delighted.

OneFile has pioneered the edtech revolution for over a decade, and we're proud to have had a significant impact on the sector. We were the first company to create an online portfolio for apprentices and the first to launch an offline app.

But as with any big success, there were a few challenges along the way.

As leaders in the eportfolio market, we had to break new ground, fight against reluctance to adopt technology in the sector... and even build a unique electronic signature system to meet the SFA's authenticity regulations. After almost a decade of development, we released the OneFile offline app in 2012 and it's now used by over 500,000 people around the world.

Our innovative software has saved thousands of pounds of government money, improved Ofsted ratings across the country, and completely transformed how training is delivered and assessed. OneFile increases learner engagement by 32%, boosts achievement rates by 10% and reduces qualification completion times by up to 50%. OneFile also delivers significant financial savings in paper, printing, travel and time – delivering ROI of up to 500%. And it doesn't end there. To date, we've saved over 25 million miles in travel, which equates to over 1,000 journeys around the world. We've also saved 15 million sheets of paper – that's more than 18,000 trees!

These successes are incredible, unprecedented and a true testament to our innovative spirit.

And now our innovation has been given the royal seal of approval. OneFile is the proud winner of the 2017 Queen's Award for Innovation. The Queen's Award is one of the most prestigious accolades for UK businesses, so we're proud to be bringing it back to the North West! Our cofounders, Chris Whalley and Susanna Lawson, will be collecting our award from Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace later on in the year, and are thrilled to have a royal addition to our award cabinet!