



"Focus like a laser, not like a flashlight." So says Michael Jordan. considered to be one of the best and most successful basketball players of his time.

We think he's right. In fact, we know he is. Our clients often come to us because they have been waving a flashlight around their business; never quite focusing the beam on the things that work.

Which is why we have created our dedicated marketing discovery and planning workshop - a place to focus on your business, your customers, your ambitions and your way forward.

We take you out of your business for the day - and out of your comfort zone. It may feel like a big step -100% of the clients who have taken that step have said it has completely changed the way they think about marketing their business, and they come out full of energy and enthusiasm and ready to take the next steps.

So, what happens?

Let's take one of our clients, Surrey Ceramics. This agile company designs and makes bespoke tableware for restaurants – it numbers the Gleneagles Hotel, Outlaw's Fish Kitchen and Nandos amongst its customers as well as a plethora of independent and boutique restaurants.

Referred to us by its sister company, Grayshott Pottery, the client came to us to refine its marketing so that it could increase sales to its target market. After an initial chat, we could see that it would be really useful to define exactly what that target market looked like, and how we could reach the right customers.

It's all about working together

The workshop isn't a place where you sit and listen. It's a place where we all roll up our sleeves and get into the nitty gritty of your business. That means there's preparation for us both to do beforehand, and homework to do afterwards. Surrey Ceramics loved this approach because they love their business, and they can see its potential. It was a fantastic change of pace and focus for the team.

Before we started, we asked them to look at their business, using questions like:

- Do you know what matters to your customers? Is this backed up with evidence or gut-feel?
- Do you know how much of your business is repeat business?
- Why and how do customers buy from you?

In lots of cases, businesses have never given any thought to this sort of information – and yet it's crucial to ensuring that you are moving in the same place as your customers. Put simply, there's no point going to Silverstone and trying to sell saddles to racing drivers when all your customers are actually at Newmarket.

And we also did our own preparation. We looked

- A review of the client's current marketing, focusing on their website, social media and customer service data.
- A brief competitor analysis; who is doing things well and what can we learn?
- How we could make the best use of the day to achieve the client's end goals?

And the hours fly by!

Clients are sometimes taken aback by the idea of a long half-day or a whole day out of the office. But they're always amazed by how quickly the time goes, and how much we can cover – and uncover – in a single session.

What happens next?

At the end of the session, clients are full of renewed enthusiasm for the business and for the new approach they can take to marketing. They can see that the beam is much more focused on the things that matter – and the things that will bring results.

We put together a detailed report for Surrey Ceramics, which outlined their three main customer types, and then gave plenty of detail about them — including where they would be looking for inspiration and information; what time of day they might be searching for something new; what social media platforms they were most likely to use; and what would most convince them to try or buy.

Along with that, we included a list of things to do

- which we separated into 'quick wins', 'mid-term
wins' and 'long-term ideas'. This gave the client an
immediate overview of what could be done straight
away to improve results, and what we could help
them with over time to embed great marketing and
sales behaviours into the business.

Does it work?

We identified several areas where Surrey Ceramics could focus their marketing to improve results:

- An engaging, useful Instagram account
- Increasing direct enquiries from the website

There was a lot to go through and I am feeling really positive about moving forwards. I found the session really helpful in terms of trying to switch from our normal view of things to get right into the psyche of the customer – their requirements, aspirations and goals.

Our clients know so much about their businesses and their customers. It's simply that they've often never had the time to think about what they know in any detail. We ask questions, give scenarios and put a commercial slant on every piece of information, so that by the end of the day, we have clear markets, clear audiences and a better idea of what messages and approaches are going to work best for each one.

- Improving Google rankings for agreed keywords
- Increasing brand awareness in the restaurant sector

Since we began working on this plan alongside the client, we have achieved:

- Grown Instagram following organically by more than 500 followers
- 11 direct social media enquiries, including from some leading brands



Furlong Flooring is a UK-wide flooring company, selling carpet, wood and vinyl flooring to retailers and property developers across the country. They called us in to help support internal change, and discovered there was a real need to re-focus their sales and marketing so that they could reach the customers that bring real value to the business. They decided to take part in a marketing workshop so they could see how to do things more effectively.



It was a great session and very thought provoking. It has highlighted to me how we need to integrate our brand, sub brands and messages consistently and as part of staff training so that every employee understands our brand, not just the MD or sales reps. Today we saw many opportunities where we can join the dots and make improvements for a clearer brand identity and a uniformed approach to the market so that we will see a greater return for our efforts.



QC creative Atylous quick on the draw QD Creative is a graphic design company based in London. Since 1986, the company has designed all the NOW! That's what I call music album covers and has designed point of sale and campaign materials for companies including HMV. They wanted to expand their customer base, and took part in a dedicated marketing workshop to identify those key new markets and see how to be found when those customers are looking for a new graphic design partner.



a target keyword

Google's for their top 10

Measurable brand awareness includes chefs who regularly tag the brand in photos of their food

Most importantly, everyone at
Surrey Ceramics is on board with
the new approach. They understand
their target audience – they know how to
approach them and how to speak to them. They
have seen great results already in just a few months
of working with us, and they know that this is
because they took the time at the very beginning of
the process to get under the skin of the business.

It was extremely useful to think about things from outside of my own business and I appreciated being pushed/challenged. Going through the journey with three different types of customer was excellent, while the sales journey was excellent at focusing on which bits we are good at, and which bits not.

Are you ready to fully immerse yourself?

If you're ready to take your marketing to the next level – to be focused and targeted and make sure that you're (finally) getting a real return on your marketing spend, then just call us for a chat today. Not every business is in the right place for this in-depth challenge, and we'll have a conversation about exactly where you are and what you want to achieve.

We may then arrange a meeting or a further call to go into more depth about your expectations and commitments – and from there, it's easy – if you're ready to go ahead, just gather together your customer-facing people, take a day out of the office and prepare to change the way you market for good.



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