



Year 4 pupil: "I don't like handwriting but I could write all day on this!"

Primary schools such as St. Barnabas in East Manchester have noticed that Tablet PCs can help some pupils overcome their reluctance to write, and increase productivity in general. Jackie Aspinall, ICT Teaching and Learning Support Manager for East Manchester Education Action Zone, trialled the PCs with a group of Year 4 pupils, asking them to write a story using the Toshiba Portégé 3500: "They enjoyed seeing their handwriting on the screen and found the use of the pen very natural. They then converted their handwritten words into text using Microsoft Word, which revealed any incorrectly-formed letters, words or sentences. Pupils could then consider and rectify their mistakes, creating a piece of work they were proud of. One pupil even exclaimed she didn't like writing normally, but could write all day on this!"

University trials tablets to aid team working

The benefits of the Tablet PC are also being experienced within further and higher education. Third-year engineering undergraduates at the University of Birmingham are trialling Toshiba Tablet PCs within a collaborative working environment. Here, students make great use of Microsoft's OneNote™ software to capture all aspects of their work. "Meeting notes, project plans, drawings and live experiments are all recorded directly onto the tablets and then stored onto a central server for shared access," explains Dan Corlett, the University's Project Manager, Microsoft-funded Learning Research. "As well as promoting collaborative working, this method also produces a well-documented interactive logbook that accurately reflects the students' work throughout the year."

"With the right software, Tablet PCs offer an extremely powerful multi-sensory learning experience, stimulating different parts of the brain."

- Kathryn Broadhurst, Headteacher
Green Lane Infant School, Leicester

For more information on Toshiba's Tablet PCs or its full range of product and services, please call **0870 458 1069**, or e-mail education@toshiba.co.uk

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CASE STUDY: EDUCATION

Tablet PC: the ultimate teaching and learning tool

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Its fan base ranges from lecturers to undergraduates to key stage 1 pupils.
What makes the Tablet PC so popular with the entire education community

Toshiba's Tablet PC benchmarks a new era for education. It is being used across every key stage of learning, from helping infants improve handwriting skills to providing teachers with a portable, interactive presentation device. Discover how this versatile ICT newcomer is fast becoming a valuable teaching and learning tool.

When Toshiba launched the Portégé 3500, many teachers were quick to spot the pedagogical benefits this flexible PC could offer. Since then, this combination laptop/ Tablet PC/presentation system has made a huge impact in the classroom, creating unprecedented opportunities for teaching and learning.

From laptop to Tablet PC in one move

Unlike Toshiba's other notebooks, a Tablet PC features a rotating screen that folds down flat to become an electronic notepad. Using a digital stylus, users can write, colour, draw and sketch directly onto the screen as if it's an endless supply of paper. By connecting the Tablet PC to a projector – either hard-wired or wireless – the duo becomes a fully interactive presentation system, similar to an electronic whiteboard, only portable. Bright, colourful and shadow-free images can then be projected onto a plain background for multi-viewing.

"This technology enhances the learning process as it presents information in a highly visual way. Like a whiteboard or old-fashioned blackboard, I can write notes, create categories, draw diagrams etc. for the whole class to see."

- Eddie Halliday, Advanced Skills Teacher for English, Ninestiles School, Birmingham

Creating visually interesting lessons

An early adopter of this new technology was Ninestiles, a 1,500-pupil comprehensive in Acocks Green, Birmingham. Eddie Halliday, Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) for English, uses his Toshiba Portégé 3500 for every lesson, most often teaming it with a projector:

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Raising standards by capturing the moment

A key advantage of teaching with a tablet is being able to capture the live element of a lesson, which, as Eddie explains, was not possible before: "As well as lesson content, I can save all the handwritten discussion notes on my tablet, enabling others to access them at a later stage. New teachers can be confident that they're focussing on the right material, while cover staff will know exactly where to pick up from. Also, for absent pupils, it allows me to recap a lesson for them, ensuring they've not missed anything."

The Microsoft® Windows® Journal software that comes pre-installed with Toshiba's Tablet PCs is ideal for an education environment. Tutors favour the highlight and outline tools, as pupils can be directed to specific sets of text, seeing immediately what they're supposed to be looking at. Tim Kilbride, AST in ICT at Ninestiles, adds that he uses Microsoft's "Mr. Snip" functionality all the time: "Unlike other software programs that tend to grab information in blocks, I can select exactly what I need simply by drawing round the defined area with the pen. I can capture text, icons or graphics and reposition them elsewhere."



"I'm a better teacher with my Tablet"

A real fan of the Tablet PC, Tim believes it's bolstered his own efficiency and quality of teaching: "In my view, I'm a better teacher with my Tablet PC. I've been able to explore a variety of teaching resources, and because it's so quick and easy to use, it helps me keep more accurate records of pupils' progress. I can wander round the classroom, jotting down assessment notes while observing a pupil's ability. Entering data is fast and more natural with a pen – compared to a mouse – and I like being able to quickly scribble e-mails!"

Real alternative to whiteboard

Many teachers state that by owning a laptop, they have the freedom to deliver dynamic, multimedia lessons anywhere: in the library, on a school outing, or even in the playing field. They don't have to worry about availability of resources at their designated classrooms, and can create stimulating lesson plans outside school hours.

"Greater flexibility and cost benefits," is how Sheela Gutteridge, AAL (Anytime Anywhere Learning) Coordinator at Ninestiles describes the impact of tablets. "Increasingly, these PCs are being used in place of electronic whiteboards, simply because they're so portable and versatile. Teachers like the spontaneous and adventurous quality that they add to a lesson, and the fact that they can be moved from room to room, and even desk to desk." From where they're sitting, pupils can write directly onto the screen, and because they're not standing at the front, they don't feel intimidated. They can also work within the whole screen area instead of being restricted by what they can physically reach, which can be a problem for younger children using whiteboards.

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- Jackie Aspinall, ICT Teaching and Learning Support Manager, St. Barnabas Primary School, East Manchester

Infants mix paint on PCs

At Green Lane Infant School, inner-city Leicester, Headteacher Kathryn Broadhurst invested in Tablet PCs because she wanted a powerful learning resource for the children that wouldn't take up space. It may sound ambitious to allow such cutting-edge technology to be in the hands of five- and six-year-olds, but this headteacher's determination to promote inclusivity and add a new dimension to learning has already paid dividends.

The school's latest Ofsted report (November 2003) made several glowing references to the innovative use of Tablet PCs, citing that pupils' "rate of learning was exceptional and demonstrated the motivating and successful use of this resource."

Auditory, visual and tactile learning tool

According to Kathryn and her staff, pupils of all abilities can benefit from individual access to these mini-machines: "With the right software, Tablet PCs offer an extremely powerful multi-sensory learning experience, stimulating different parts of the brain. Pupils can see, hear and touch their work as it progresses, becoming completely absorbed and fascinated in the results of their own actions."

For this multicultural school, where over 17 languages are spoken, the use of highly visual teaching aids is helping to overcome some of the communication barriers. This is demonstrated vividly by a group of key stage 1 pupils, obviously delighted at the prospect of using such technology. They waste no time showing off their impressive ICT skills: using the Revelation Art programme they skilfully mix paint, change media, explore and use different thicknesses of line and variety of lines – all with a touch of a pen. They select different effects such as chalks, oil pastels, felt-tips, spray and fill, and when they're finally satisfied with their work, they save and print it.