iPads for learning

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iPads for learning at Harrogate Grammar School

We are now in our fifth year of our 1:1 iPad for learning scheme and although this learning tool is regularly monitored across the school, on the back of outstanding results last summer it is useful to revisit how the iPad is used to support the smooth running of school life, the work of teachers and of course the learning of all our students.

The iPad has provided access to new and innovative teaching and learning opportunities which without the iPad would not be possible. As the scheme has developed and grown over time it has become embedded into the Harrogate Grammar School experience. As you wander round the school you will find students using the iPad to support the their learning is many different ways and on a variety of levels.

In a large school community, effective communication with staff and students is essential. The iPads have allowed our population to be kept informed with day to day events such as room changes, extra-curricular events and catering options. Students can order lunch and contact teachers to ask for help or check homework details for example, easily from home and in school.
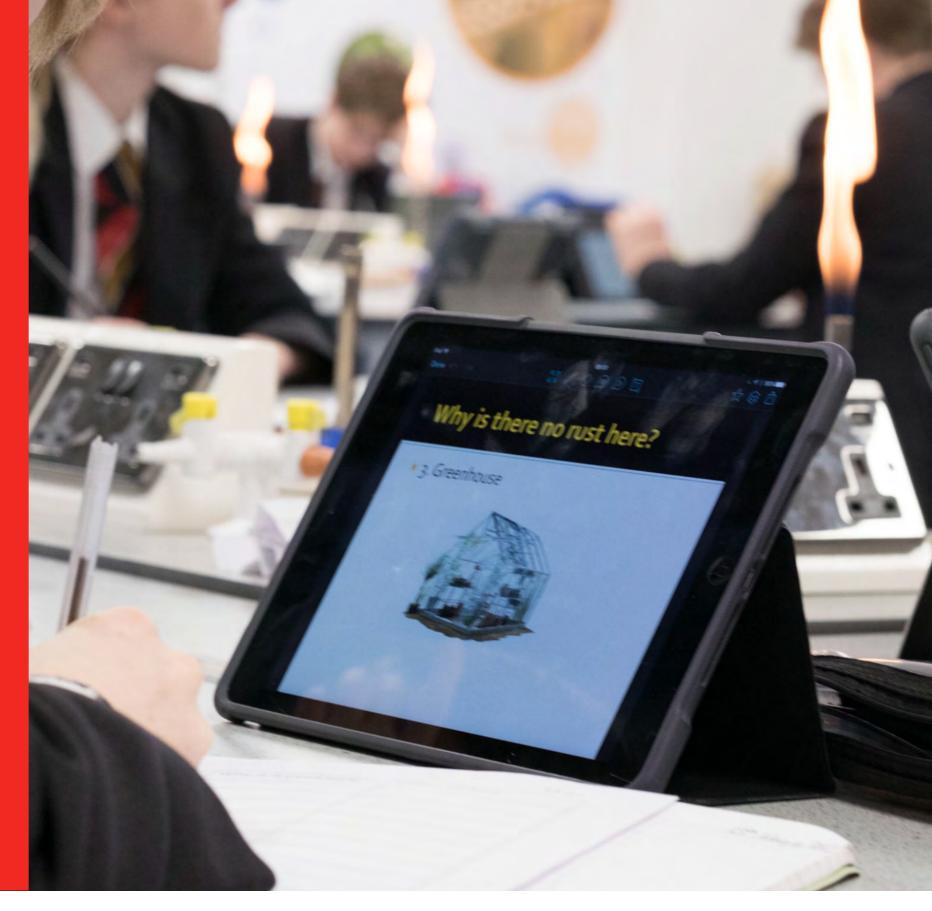

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Home-learning across the school is organised through teacher and student planner apps, supporting students to manage their work across the week and receive clear instructions on what needs to be done. The iPad also facilitates learning beyond the school day as well as making work conducted in class accessible at home.

Resources for home learning and classwork are shared with students through Firefly and Showbie. The latter also provides an opportunity for students to share their work with teachers, who in turn can provide written or verbal feedback without needing to collect in books or wait to see students in class. Students also use their Showbie classes to record targets and track assessment outcomes over the year.

Students regularly check their progress with our positive achievement system ClassCharts through their iPad. Parents can also log in to see how their child is doing in school. This tool also allows teachers to construct seating plans which support the learning of all students in their classes. The availability of information on our students through the iPad has supported the work of our teachers in class and with events such as parents' evenings..

As well as Showbie, ClassCharts and Firefly planner our 'Core apps', subject areas utilise the iPad to support learning in other ways. Art students have access to industry standard editing tools for photography, Science use animations to model concepts and operate data logging devices, languages use apps to support vocabulary development and in PE, students film their technique and analyse performance based on this video evidence. Subject based apps support many different areas of school and of course students can search for their own material to aid their learning through access to the internet

The iPad scheme has driven the increased reliability of our network, allowing all students to benefit from wifi access across the school, every day. Up to date information about your child homework and feedback is available through our parent portal ensuring you are kept in the picture.

Thank you for your continued support with this aspect of our work in striving for excellence for all.

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