Teaching Methods to Embed Technology

A number of teaching methods lend themselves to using smaller sets of iPads. Carousels, workshops, problem/challenge based learning and co-operative learning are particularly effective approaches.

Carousel/stations – when a lesson is set up as a carousel, where pupils move from one task to another, iPads can form part or all of one of the stations. Content specific apps could be used to reinforce a particular concept i.e. times tables or content creation apps could be used to display learning.

Group work/workshops – lessons, particularly Maths and Literacy, are often taught in differentiated groups. A small set of iPads with subject specific apps can be used by individuals or in pairs for reinforcing concepts. Also, where some pupils may be creating paper-based responses to work, one or more groups could use content creation apps as an alternative.

Examples for Literacy

• Write a short script and use iMovie to record and edit this as an alternative to summarizing a chapter

• Use Adobe Voice, Puppet Pals or Comic Life to re-tell key events in a story

• Use Adobe Voice, iMovie etc. to record a book review. Use Aurasma and the front cover of the book to ‘trigger’ the review

• Use iMovie to create a news report summarizing the key points of a non-fiction text

• Use trailers in iMovie to portray the key points of a given text

• Use Popplet (Lite) to create character maps of different characters in the text

• Use Book Creator to create an interactive version of the book that has been read

• Use GarageBand to create a piece of music to represent the theme of a book

• Set up a BaiBoard HD session for a group with prewritten questions, use the app to respond to these questions during reading time or let a pupil(s) create questions for others in the group to answer after reading

• Use BaiBoard to check up on any literacy concept by asking pupils to feedback live during a plenary
• Use BitsBoard to allow groups to reinforce concepts in Literacy Rich

• Use VoiceThread to record, assess and record progress of fluency in younger readers

• Use Morpho to promote storytelling, encourage and assess fluency in reluctant readers and explore characterization

• Have older pupils use Explain Everything, Book Creator or Adobe Voice to give tips to younger readers about key reading/spelling rules

• Use Explain Everything to photograph writing. Peer assess in pairs using features in the app and provide feedback using the voice recorder

• Use Explain Everything to allow pupils to create video tutorials about key words and concepts for writing such as grammar, tips for spelling etc. use these videos for supporting groups in writing

• Use Popplet (Lite) for story planning, character development, assessment of key concepts in writing

• Use apps to support the writing process such as Dragon Dictation, dictionaries and so on

• Use animation apps to demonstrate learning in any area!

• Write and record a persuasive argument, news report etc. and upload to the school website to get feedback

Examples for Maths

• Create resources in Bitsboard to support concepts for SEAL

• Use Explain Everything to create videos which allow pupils to show their understanding of processes

• Have pupils create videos of the key concepts and terminology within SEAL, share these with parents via the school website to support learning at home

• Use the many apps specifically designed to teach and reinforce concepts in maths for small groups, ensuring that you fairly rotate the iPads for different groups across a series of lessons

Challenge based learning is a teaching method supported by Apple. It allows children to design their own learning around solving of a local problem. This approach links well with promoting co-operative learning skills, problem solving, enquiry based and independent learning. For a comprehensive guide to using this approach in the classroom follow the link below:


Genius Hour is another great way pupils can learn vital skills in all areas of learning, promote teamwork, creativity and curiosity whilst getting the best out of the
technology available. Genius Hour could be timetabled through the week so that only one group is working on a project at a time. For more information see the following blog post.

Differentiation

A great way get pupils one or two iPads in the classroom is using Aurasma to support differentiation. By creating triggers which link to differentiated videos, teacher created ExplainEverything tutorials, KhanAcademy videos etc. (for any topic) different groups are able to watch instruction at their level, freeing you up to support groups that may need extra challenge or support.

Assessment – for apps and ideas to support assessment click here.

Extra Tips
Keep iPads on desks not in carts. Have a bank of apps that pupils regularly use to support literacy and numeracy such as dictionary apps, calculator, spell checkers and DragonDictation for SfL.

Allow pupils to access the iPads when they need them and allow them to come up with creative ideas for using them.

Train up some willing pupils as Digital Leaders (perhaps one pupil per group) ensuring that the day-to-day jobs such as saving and deleting of files, closing down apps, charging at the end of the day all happens smoothly.

Differentiate outcomes. Does every Co-operative Learning group have to create a poster or can some groups use content creation apps to display their learning?