LESSON PLAN 69 : LAPTOP v TABLET

Objective: Choosing the right technology for your classroom

Age range: 5-14

Mike Clemens used the development of his school's ICT resources as a way to get his Year 8 class involved in discussing technology and testing devices – and ultimately helping the school to decide on the direction it would take! Here's how he incorporated the process into a lesson and made it a learning experience for his class.

YOU WILL NEED

Devices to compare.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Testing and research, teamwork, collaboration, analysis, presentation.

METHOD

Mike writes:

"I have just finished with my Year 8 kids researching the question: why should we use iPads in class instead of laptops?

"I set up the scenario by explaining that we (Amberley School) were looking at investing in some more technology to support students learning. We talked about the two new iPads I had got in for testing and the kids discussed how they had noticed that the younger kids in Room 1 and 2 were using the technology for learning how to read and write.

"My class already has a buddy class (Years 1 and 2). Everyone talked about one little buddy in particular. He has reading and writing needs and was making great progress using the apps on the iPads.

"So, I brought the devices into the class and let them have a play/testing time. The only expectation I had was that when they'd finished 'having a go', they needed to record their thoughts on how tablets could be used for learning and what were the positive and negatives that they could think of.

"I thought it was a great lesson and the results have influenced our school buying programme. At the writing of this I have just requested a quote for 20 iPads and it goes to the BoT soon for approval."

MIKE CLEMENS TEACHES AT AMBERLEY SCHOOL.

PRESENTING THE RESULTS

"The students all recorded their notes and I suggested I put them into Wordle and produce a poster for them. Of course, they were having none of that, and told me 'we can do it' (my hope all along but don't tell them!). Here are samples of the type of Wordle they were able to produce from their notes after testing the devices."

THESE IMAGES WERE CREATED USING ONLINE WORD CLOUD GENERATOR WORDLE (WORDLE.COM).

THIS LESSON PLAN IS PUBLISHED UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS BY-SA LICENCE. IT CAN BE DOWNLOADED AS A PDF AT interfaceonline.co.nz