



Digital Learning Scheme



Heathfield
Community College and Sixth Form

INTRODUCTION

A Digital World

In schools, we cannot hide from the fact that the world is changing and at a rate that is increasing. At Heathfield we believe we are not just preparing students for now but also what the future might be. The way in which people work and the jobs our students will find themselves in are constantly changing. Technological developments impact on all of our lives on a daily basis.

Young people are more adept at responding to change. They have the ability to apply their learning skills to a variety of situations and are able to engage in applications that may have only been established months previously.

At Heathfield we are committed to delivering a curriculum that allows for traditional methods of teaching and learning to take place with the support of new digital technologies. Our staff are able to select the most appropriate resources to enable student choice, personalisation and engagement in learning.



The Digital Learning Environment

The iPad provides a teaching and learning resource that allows students to engage with subjects in a variety of different ways that previously weren't possible.

Staff have the ability to share resources and give feedback simply and efficiently. The use of our Learning Platform enables students to monitor and plan for work that needs to take place outside of the classroom and access specific resources needed for these activities.

The iPad can give immediate access to resources that are recent and relevant to topics being taught in class. Subject specific applications can support the delivery of topics to help and guide students during revision and homework activities.

The methods that students can demonstrate their understanding also widens. Work can be written, recorded, photographed or filmed. Students can present their work in high quality publications recording their progress.

“After seeing them in lessons I am more confident of the value of the iPad and their appropriate use.”

Parent Learning Walk Feedback

The Role of the iPad

When deciding upon a device to implement a whole school Digital Learning strategy it was decided that a portable tablet would be the most appropriate. A tablet would allow resources to be accessed with ease, it would be lightweight and portable, it would also be durable and reliable.

Through a range of research that considered the type of tablets, the concept of different devices and the use of laptops, it was decided that consistency was vital and a single device must be used. This consistency would allow the College to implement a scheme that would ensure teachers, students and parents could receive the necessary training and support with using the devices. It also ensured that the management of the devices and apps would be reliable and easy to deliver across all students.

Based on research into the different types of tablets on offer it was decided that the iPad met the requirements of the College needs. The iPad is recognised around the world as the tablet of choice for educationalists. It also has the strongest foothold and is one of the most reliable devices on the market. The Apple App Store is also increasingly populated with high quality Apps to support learning at home and in the classroom.

THE SCHEME

Solutions Inc.

The College works in partnership with the Apple Specialist Retailer, Solutions Inc. The company administer the scheme on the College's behalf. Solutions are an Apple retailer and have worked with the College for over five years. They are passionate about education and, as well as providing us with the method of delivering our devices, they work collaboratively with the College to further enhance our provision.

The Contribution from the College

The College continues to support ICT across the curriculum and manages its infrastructure which includes:

- High quality wireless internet access
- A specialist team of IT Support Technicians
- Developing opportunities for Student Leadership through our Digital Genius programme

The facilities already in place across the College support students access to subject specific software through the use of desktop PC's and Macs.

As a College we also share resources to support students and parents when using the iPad. This includes guidance for settings along with useful resources about the common Applications used when learning.

“The iPad has enabled my daughter to be far more organised and responsible than she might have been.”

Parent Learning Walk Feedback

The Contribution from Families

This leads us to the contribution we are asking from families. We are inviting families to play their part in supporting the Digital Learning scheme to allow students to access the latest resources for their learning. Although the immediate product of this scheme is an iPad, it is categorically a learning scheme that we are asking parents to contribute to on a monthly basis over a five year period.

The current cost of being part of the scheme includes:

- The cost of two iPads across five years (the first between Year 7 and Year 9 and the second between Year 10 and Year 11)
- A highly protective case
- A range of paid for Apps including Firefly, our Virtual Learning Environment
- Provision of a mobile device management and communications system
- Wi-Fi and broadband systems
- Finance and Totalcare Cover



A Commitment: Every Child Will Have Access to This Opportunity

We are committed to every single child having an equal and fair access to this new curriculum. We hope the vast majority of families will be able to support the programme through the scheme. If a family already owns an iPad they may wish to dedicate it to the use of their child. However, devices must meet the minimum specifications outlined to ensure all children can access the Apps being used in the classrooms.

How Often Will the iPad Feature in the Learning?

Our Curriculums are built around the opportunities provided by the iPad, however, no subject will use it all the time. We encourage our teachers to use the most appropriate methods to deliver the content and skills required in their subject.

The iPad provides a connection between the work being completed in College and the work completed at home. It allows students to access all homework tasks and resources through Firefly along with giving access to files saved on the College system.

Teachers can also use the features of the iPad to allow students to record, photograph or present their homework in different methods giving variety to students learning activities.

Safe and Unlimited Storage of All Work

Students have a number of facilities to back up work from their iPad. Students will be set up with both Google Drive and One Drive accounts for documents produced. WebDav (an installed App) enables students to upload work into their personal drives on the College servers. Along with this, students can backup their device by plugging it into a home computer.

Students will be given instructions and access to online guides on the best ways of managing the space on their iPads along with how to upload work into the highlighted areas.

Student Safety and Screen Time

The safety of students is paramount for us at the College. We have invested in hardware and a mobile device management system which can focus permissions down to individual websites or control access to an individual App at any given moment.

The Operating System provided on the iPad (iOS) comes with a large number of features that can allow parents to limit the amount of time spent on a device, along with altering light levels at specific points during the day. Guidance on these features will be provided.

Further Information

To gain further information about the scheme please select from the links below.



Solutions Inc

<https://www.solutions-inc.co.uk/education/>



Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=400698



Signing Up for the Scheme

http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=400698