Tablets bring Education to life!

“They facilitate independent learning, help develop pupils' digital skills, improve comprehension, encourage creativity and increase pupils' involvement and motivation.”¹

Mathematics is considered as a learning-by-doing subject based on self-exploration, continuous practice and development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. I honestly feel that the tablet can enhance such goals in the students. Their excitement when using a tablet will lead them to be more motivated and engaged in the tasks given. They have the possibility to showcase their understanding through hands-on activities and practical exercises, whilst collaborating also with their peers. This applies to all the other subjects tackled in school.

As teachers, we meet students with a multitude of learning styles. The tablet can be an effective means to reach all of them through differentiated tasks. Teachers “can quickly deliver engaging material to the students in real time.”² This learning barrier will be overcome and the learning material can be presented in a combination of different learning modalities: visual, verbal, auditory, tactile and kinaesthetic. By incorporating web 2.0 tools and tablet apps, the classroom will become an interactive and stimulating environment. For example online games, interactive books, video clips or simulations, images and information research. This leads to better engagement, enhance knowledge retention, increase students' stimulation and improve their learning abilities. Since tablets are mobile the lesson will be more memorable for the students and will encourage them to be more active in the classroom.

The tablet in itself develops a creative force in the students, rather than being passive knowledge recipients. This can achieved through simple tasks, such as drawing 2-D shapes. This also applies to playing games. If they are

chosen wisely with an educational objective in mind, they can encourage creativity and out-of-the box thinking. Interactive quizzes will challenge the students and increase collaboration, especially if done with their classmates. Photography is also a great way to document projects and research, whilst showing their work in an exciting way through visuals. All of these will present learning in a fun, interesting and enjoyable way to gauge how students acquire learning. We therefore have a major focus on teaching, rather than testing and grading.

I feel that with the tablet, there will be a better connection between the major stakeholders of education: students, parents, teachers and LSA’s. Digital data produced in class will be available for everyone, so the child’s achievement and improvement is constantly monitored. The fact that students send their work to the teacher, is a fast and efficient way of assessing their progress and check if the learning outcome has been reached by all. This can also be an opportunity for further explanation or revision exercises. The students’ work can also be displayed on the screen to higher up their self-esteem and self-confidence. This can be extremely beneficial for low achievers and special needs students. In fact “Tablets create an equal learning platform in classrooms as it gives all students an equal learning opportunity.”\(^3\) The student centred approach should be at the core, when using tablets in teaching.

Using tablets in classrooms will create a more integrated learning experience which is engaging for the students, resourceful and innovative.

\(^3\) [http://content.mobicip.com/content/benefits-tablets-classroom-learning](http://content.mobicip.com/content/benefits-tablets-classroom-learning)
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- Teaching with Tablets by Helen Caldwell and James Bird (2015)