

## ICT in education: From blackboard to keyboard

### 1. Learning tools

#### Task 1

**Make a list of all the tools you use to learn at school or at home.**

- Dictionary
- video
- cassette
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**Look through the texts on Information and Communications Technology in UK schools now and in the future. Underline other examples of learning tools. Compare with your class.**

#### **From blackboard to keyboard: A vision of schools to come**

Parents can view their children's work online at any time.

Students do not miss lessons because they can see a web cam version online and get worksheets and notes from electronic online whiteboards.

School exams are taken online and marked electronically.

Schools are linked in a network and work on projects together and prepare materials online.

Every school has got its own website.

Teachers mark your homework electronically and email it back to you.

Schools abroad link up to your school and you can practice speaking in a foreign language with real cyber pals on screen.

Many course modules can be studied alone and the students contact a virtual teacher only when they need help or to send work for assessment.

Pupils do not go to school every day and study half of the time alone or in networks on their laptop at home.

Each pupil has a personalised work plan and works at their own speed and level.

There is no need for a classroom or teacher and pupils learn online with other virtual students.

**2003 figures from the ICT in Schools Survey in the UK**

- Almost every school in Scotland has a school website
- ICT use at home and school is on the increase
- The number of computers per pupil is now 1:7.9
- The numbers of computers per school is 192.7
- 87% of teachers feel confident with using ICT in the classroom
- 99% of schools are connected to the internet
- Pupils use ICT more at home than at school and for longer periods of time.
- Many use the Internet for homework research and email or text friends to ask for help with homework.

- **Have you ever used any of these tools?**
- **How often do you use them?**
- **In which school subjects?**

**2. ICT in your school**

**Task 2**

**Answer these questions for your school or schools in your country.**

- How many computers are there in an average school?
- How many students work together on a computer in lessons?
- How many teachers feel happy using technology as a learning tool? (percentage)
- How many schools have Internet access?
- Are you encouraged to use technology to do your homework at home?

**3. Read and compare**

**Task 3**

**Compare your answers to the questions in task 2 with the same answers for UK schools in 2003**

## 4. Predictions for the future

### Task 4

Look at the descriptions of UK schools in '[A vision of schools to come](#)'. Which of these predictions have already started to happen? Tick the sentences which might describe practice in schools today.

- Which sentences describe something which is "just around the corner"? (in the near future)
- Which sentences describe schools in ten years time?
- Which sentences describe schools in 25 years time?
- Which sentences describe learning that will not happen in your lifetime or never?

### Predict the learning tools and styles of your future

#### Compare your predictions:

I think we'll be doing exams on line in ten years time/ I think it is very unlikely that exams will be on line because many of our exams are oral

No, I don't think we'll be using the internet to catch up on missed lessons because I don't think the schools and students will have the money to buy the technology

Some schools here are already working together on line so we will soon be all exchanging work with schools at home and abroad

## 5. Learning styles

### Task 5

ICT is changing the learning styles of many UK classrooms. Teachers are doing less of the talking, students are doing more work in pairs or groups and students are finding out more information by themselves, guided by a teacher.

What is your preferred learning style? And your partner's?

- Do you like working alone or in groups?
- Do you like writing by yourself or in a team?
- Do you like looking for information in a book or on line?
- Do you like talking more or writing more?
- Do you like learning from videos and TV or listening to a lecture?
- Do you like doing short tasks or do you prefer projects?
- Do you like seeing lots of diagrams and pictures?