

## Technology for learning

### Task 1 Techno-vocab-match

Match the item on the left with its definition on the right.

1) A lap-top computer -	a) a diary or journal that is published on the Internet.
2) An MP3 player –	b) a sound file published on the Internet.
3) A Memory stick –	c) a small storage device for sound files.
4) A Weblog –	d) a small, portable computer.
5) A Podcast -	e) a computerised whiteboard.
6) An interactive whiteboard	f) a portable computer drive, the new style floppy disc

- Which of the things in the table do you know about?
- Are there any that you've never heard of?

### Task 2 Find a techie!

Speak to your classmates to find out who the 'techies' are.

Find somebody who...	Name	Extra information
... has used a computer in the last 24 hours.		
... has bought a computer magazine.		
... has written/ read a weblog.		
... has listened to a podcast.		
... has used a memory stick.		
... uses the Internet regularly.		
... would like to work with computers.		

- Look at your answers and tell the group something you found out about your classmates.

### Task 3 Trend UK reading – Did your dog eat your MP3?

Before you read the text, discuss the following questions:

- When was the last time you didn't do your homework?
- Did you have a good excuse for not doing your homework?
- Have you or your friends ever invented an excuse for not doing homework?
- Do you think new technology can help you to learn?
- How much technology is used in your school?

#### **Did your dog eat your MP3?**

Have you thought of using your MP3 to learn? No more excuses about destroyed notes.

There's a new initiative in the UK using media in a surprising way.

#### **Podcasting replacing paper**

British schools are starting to see the opportunities that MP3's provide, not just for music but as a learning tool. Musselburgh Grammar School in East Lothian, Scotland is the first in Europe to have regular podcasting. It has been using MP3's to make learning more interesting and help lessons sink in. Pupils are learning by podcasting, a method of publishing files via the Internet, allowing users to subscribe to a feed to receive new files automatically. Pupils and teachers record and edit an audio recording and then save it as an MP3 file.

#### **Learning on the move**

On a report for Newsround, a youth news programme on the BBC, Amy, Claire and Ryan, students at the school, talk of the success of the scheme. 'Our friends Melissa and Hassan like the idea because you can cram while you are on the move...

'It's a good idea because if someone is off school they can catch up. You can also listen to your lessons on the way home from school.'

High school students are familiar with this medium with many owning ipods or other MP3s. As well as helping them learn in a new way it also helps their use of the technology, by practising downloading.

Now there is no escape from school or excuse for not getting the notes on set homework... It is easy and you don't need to be in your room studying - learn in the park or sitting on a bus. It could be coming to a classroom near you soon!

**Task 4 Discussion Statements**

Discuss the following statements in groups. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statements?

1) We should spend more time learning how to use computers at school.
2) I know more about computers and new technology than my parents.
3) I think I will need to use computers in my job.
4) The Internet is more useful than books.
5) Books and newspapers will disappear within the next 50 years.
6) In the future teachers will be replaced by robots or computers.
7) In the future students will study more at home by computer.
8) I think I will work from a computer at home when I get a job.

**Task 5 Spending committee**

Work in small groups. Imagine your school has been given a large sum of money to spend on new materials. You are part of the committee that will decide how to spend the money. Put the following items in order from the most important to the least important. You must be able to defend your choices.

- Books for the library
- New furniture for the classrooms
- A new sports centre
- More teachers
- A new computer room
- MP3 players for every student
- Laptops for every student
- Interactive whiteboards for every classroom
- A new dining area for lunchtime
- A common room for students to relax

**Task 6 Classrooms of the future**

Think about what classrooms will be like in the future. Imagine what your classroom will look like in fifty or a hundred years time. Work in pairs and draw the design of the classroom of the future here: