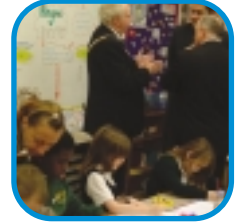


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Schools of the Future are not such a pipedream....

Simple technology is putting fun and excitement on the timetable for every lesson!

The '**classroom of the future**' is actually a reality for teachers and pupils involved in a Government ICT Test Bed Project in Barking & Dagenham.

At Warren Junior School in Chadwell Heath (London Borough of Barking and Dagenham), every class has a Samsung Visual Presenter to add another dimension to lessons and laptops are available not only for teachers but also for whole classes on a rotation basis, with the children working in pairs to encourage discussion.

The Visual Presenter is being used across all age groups and across all subject areas - from showing children of seven how to put markings on Egyptian clay models, to demonstrating handwriting and maths for children of 10 and 11.

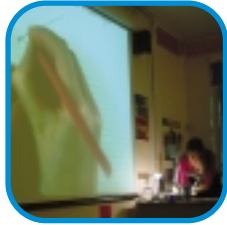
The facility to beam a huge image to a class of 30 children simultaneously means a huge saving in a teacher's time. The equipment can be used to show children details on the skeletal system and how it has an impact on strength and map out tactics before team sports. Teachers and children compete to find ever more innovative applications.

Warren Junior is now a Host School for the Strategic Leadership in ICT (SLICT) programme. Head Teacher **Gary Wilder** and his staff welcome visitors and will happily share and collaborate with any school interested in developing ICT.

"People do not know there is an alternative to interactive whiteboards. A Visualiser linked with a graphics tablet can facilitate teachers in their teaching and enhance pupils' learning. These types of technologies have the potential to transform education throughout the country. Ultimately, we will have all our lesson content sitting on the server, which teachers just access," he said. "If it is one to two hundred lessons now, it could eventually be four to five thousand."

Teachers from Warren School have attended teaching conferences all over the country as well as overseas to discuss how the technology can transform lessons. Over half the borough's primary schools have at least one Visual Presenter, with many schools looking to buy more as funds become available.

After visiting Warren Junior, a Head Teacher from Chelmsford returned to his school and set up things in exactly the same way as Warren. This enabled teachers to prepare, store and share lesson materials under subject headings. The scent of success stretches as far as Melbourne, Australia, with a Head Teacher who spent time at Warren on an exchange visit being so impressed with the technology that he returned home determined to blaze a Visual Presenter trail!



A network of schools south of Birmingham adjusted their ICT procurement to incorporate Visual Presenters after seeing how Warren Junior School was developing the technology and seeing the positive impact it was having on teaching and learning. ICT Test Bed Project Manager **Matt Goodyear** demonstrated the Visual Presenter to a group of 200 Head Teachers and ICT co-ordinators and they were totally impressed by the technology.

“The Test Bed Project is the first time I have seen IT have a real effect on teaching and learning; these technologies really deliver,” said **Matt**.

The Visual Presenter positively reduces the teacher’s workload in lesson preparation and enhances the delivery of lessons. It also provides an opportunity to access a new range of resources as well as producing financial savings. With four classes per year group at Warren there is ample opportunity for staff to share materials and resources. *“Although lessons are modified to the needs and abilities of each class a great deal of the prepared materials can be re-used,”* said **Gary Wilder**.

It is quite common, where teachers have the Visual Presenter and the hand-held wireless ‘graphics tablet’, for a teacher to stand at the back of the classroom and ‘write on the board’. This way they get a complete overview of what is going on in the room; children are not distracted by a teacher writing on a board at the front; discipline - or lack of it - is never a problem.

The whole pace of the lesson speeds up; children have no time to get bored because there is simply no ‘dead’ time.

Samsung invited **London Schools Minister Stephen Twigg** to view the ICT Test Bed Project at Warren School to discuss the benefits the Visual Presenter could make to teaching and learning.

“Mr Twigg was very impressed with the keenness children had for the new way of working. This is one case where seeing really is believing, and no-one who witnesses the benefits of the technology for themselves has any doubts about how it will lift teaching and learning standards,” said **Sales Manager, Simon Shawley**.

Even schools or colleges which may already have bought ‘interactive whiteboards’ find a Visual Presenter adds another dimension to teaching. No technical knowledge is needed to use one and teachers can work at their own pace and in their own time.

There are a variety of Government grants available to help schools and colleges cope with capital outlay for display technologies and Visual Presenters are covered because they can be seen to contribute directly to classroom learning. Advice on funding is available from LEAs or from Becta.

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