

3 Ways Technology is Transforming the Classroom

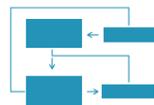
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From how they communicate on social platforms to how they consume news and TV, it's no secret today's generation of school children were born into a world where technology is embedded into their everyday lives.

Because of this – and with fewer resources available – we're seeing increasing expectations to have a connected learning experience. After all, to ensure the best outcomes, it's vital that we ensure our classrooms are fostering the most engaging learning environment possible.

Here are just three ways technology is transforming the classroom and why it is this crucial for the future of education as we know it.

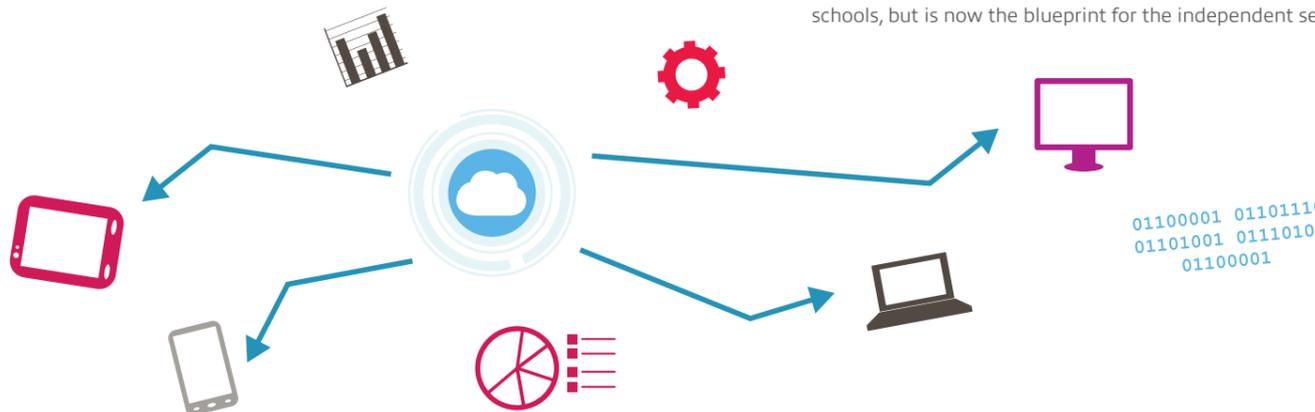


1 Bringing the classroom together with experts

The adoption of remote teaching is increasing – helping to virtually connect students with experts in their field of study.

For example, one of the UK's most prestigious universities – the University of Bristol – has developed a new way to facilitate remote teaching between NHS sites and the University for its new medical undergraduate programme. The goal is to enable administrators and academic staff from NHS sites to join meetings at the university without the need to travel, to participate equally and learn collaboratively via the university's implementation of an integrated suite of Office 365 tools.

Because the medical students of today will be the doctors of tomorrow, it is critical that our doctors are properly equipped to thrive in an environment where both patient care and clinical research are underpinned by digital networks and systems.



2 A 'connected' and collaborative learning experience

Collaborative tools developed by both Microsoft and Google are giving teachers the ability to manage their classrooms with ease by creating classes, distributing assignments, setting quizzes and sending feedback to a single cloud-based platform that a number of users can all access at once.

Then, whether this is in the classroom or working on homework in the evenings from their kitchen table, students can engage and seamlessly work with one another on team assignments.

In order to foster a truly connected learning environment, Repton School – a co-educational independent school for day and boarding pupils in Derbyshire – decided to equip every student with their own device.

In 2017 Repton hosted other top independent schools showcasing the role that technology can play in the classroom. With its 1:1 scheme in place, Repton is not only one of Microsoft's showcase schools, but is now the blueprint for the independent sector.

3 Flipped Classrooms – A new way of learning

Increasing access to technology outside the classroom has led to the emergence of a new learning model, the "flipped classroom". In laymen's terms this means that understanding elements that were typically assigned as homework are now completed in the classroom, whilst the "learning" element – through lectures or presentations – can now be viewed and absorbed at home.

Helping to enhance student learning and achievement, a flipped classroom gives students more control over their own learning. For example, if a teacher posts video lectures online for pupils to view ahead of their next lesson, they have the freedom to learn where it suits them best and at their own pace.

What this also means is that class time can be fully dedicated to expanding and mastering the material through classroom learning exercises, projects and group discussions.

There's no denying that the traditional model of learning has changed. The implementation of technology in the classroom has seen the traditional student and teacher roles change. Rather than teachers standing at the front of the classroom relaying information which students absorb and regurgitate, educators' roles have changed to become more of a facilitator.

Because this means students are encouraged to get more involved in their own learning, education institutions are able to foster a more engaging and collaborative learning environment.