

## Conyers School

### Engaging disaffected learners and driving innovative teaching practice

When Conyers School wanted to make learning more accessible and help teachers innovate, they joined our e7 Pilot in order to trial iPad. 18 months later, they have a 1:1 rollout, 67% of students think iPad is improving their work, and they've just hosted their first iPad for Learning Conference for local schools...

"Realistically, 18 months ago we were standing still in terms of innovation," Director of IT Chris Coleman told us. "We thought there had to be another way to embrace and engage with all our learners and we thought iPad could be the way to do that. We wanted learning to be a personalised experience for students, so they could learn in a way that suited them."

After some consideration, that school decided that they needed to attempt a 1:1 device scheme, because "personal devices mean a bigger buy in and more interest from the students, and they can work in an environment that they're used to working in." Once the strategy was decided, the hunt was on for an appropriate way to trial the devices before investing.

"Jigsaw24's e7 Pilot is a great way to have a bank of iPad and use them in your own environment," Chris explained. "If you don't do that, then all [your research] is just theory and it's all relative to a fake scenario. Getting iPad in your school lets you see the benefits and shows you, as a school, the potential of this technology."

“Our parental survey and our student survey both reflect that learning is more engaging now, it's more creative, and they're able to access learning better than they used to. Students are able to stretch themselves, they're able to get extra support and advice when they need it.”

**Chris Coleman, Director of IT, Conyers School.**



Working with...



### In a nutshell...

#### Who are they?

A high-achieving secondary school and Sixth Form in Stockton-on-Tees, Conyers School aims to encourage independent, determined students and enthusiastic, empathetic people who will contribute positively to their community.

#### What did they need?

A way to trial iPad in their classrooms, plus training and support throughout the rollout, which included a parental contribution scheme.

#### How did we help?

Conyers took part in our 1:1 iPad trial, the e7 Pilot, in order to ascertain whether iPad was right for them. When they decided to go 1:1, we provided iPad, support, training and a school-branded purchasing portal for parents.

#### What were the benefits?

- Parents, students and teachers report that learning is more engaging and accessible.
- 75% of students say iPad helps them understand topics where they'd struggled previously.
- The school was able to roll out iPad (including the parental purchasing scheme) with minimal impact on admin and support staff.



## Laying the groundwork

"Without solid staff training, there's no direction to ensure iPad is enhancing teaching and learning," PE teacher Graeme Simpson told us. "Students will engage [without staff input], but whether they'll achieve an increase in progress is a different matter."

With this in mind, Conyers provided staff with iPad ahead of the student rollout, and trained up key members of staff to act as 'super users' who could offer tips and support to less confident colleagues. At the same time, a number of students were appointed as Digital Leaders and encouraged to borrow staff iPad in order to see if they found iPad helpful and whether the school network could support iPad in the classroom.

"[We were] asked by Mr Coleman to test out the student WiFi, check that Meraki would manage iPad correctly, that we could track where they were if they went missing and things, just to ensure we had those features set up," explained James, a Sixth Form Digital Leader. "I was also able to look at apps that I found personally and suggest them to Mr Coleman and the other members of staff. If it was a premium app and the school thought it was good, they would buy it for the entire school."



## Preparing parents for the launch

When the school announced that they wanted to pursue a 1:1 rollout, Chris told us, "staff were all on board. They anticipated that as a school we needed to move forward, we needed to embrace technology and we needed to make sure it was accessible to all." Governors and parents were also supportive – even though parents were being asked to foot the bill in the form of a parental contribution scheme.

"We decided to go with a parental contribution scheme purely because we wanted students to leave us with a device that they could continue using. So beyond us, beyond Sixth Form, they're equipped with that kind of device that will prepare them for the future," Chris explained. Parents would be able to order their child's device online through a purchasing portal built by Jigsaw24, and pay for it in monthly instalments over their child's time at the school.

"Our parental survey went out a few weeks ago, and every single parent that responded to the survey said the ordering process was smooth, it was easy. It took a huge burden off us as a school, because when it came to the orders there wasn't anything we had to do, and parents were just able to select the products that they wanted in a way that suited them."



Key to keeping parents on board was the school's policy of complete transparency. Before and after the launch of the scheme, they kept parents up to date with the latest developments, app recommendations and iPad user information.

"Keeping parents informed is a really important thing," Chris explained. "We're asking parents to make a big investment and it's a lot of money to ask them to give at the end of each month. We want to fully engage with parents so that they're fully aware of the offering that's provided, the full process and how it works, so they can make the right decision for their child."

“Jigsaw24 are a really good company. They're supportive of us, and not just at point of order – it goes beyond that, into the life of the school. For all the things you need to make a 1:1 system work, Jigsaw24 are there.”

**Chris Coleman, Director of IT, Conyers School.**

## Driving engagement and attainment

"I think when students first heard about iPad, their reactions were a mixed bag," English teacher Jennifer Bulman said. "Some were really enthusiastic, and others were quite reluctant. But when they saw the benefits and the impact on their learning, they quickly got on board."

"Since iPad arrived, I've seen a change in students' learning practice and my teaching practice – namely that I'm doing less and they're doing more. They're taking ownership of their learning, they're being much more independent, they're picking pathways which suit them, they're able to assess their work and proofread. So I can take a step back, in a sense, and facilitate their learning, marking for progress rather than silly mistakes."

Jennifer isn't the only teacher who's seen progress. A recent student voice survey concluded that 67% of students have noticed an improvement in their grades since the introduction of iPad, and over 75% say that having access to all the resources in iPad is helping them understand topics they'd previously struggled with.

"Our parental survey and our student survey both reflect that learning is more engaging now, it's more creative, and they're able to access learning better than they used to," Chris confirmed. "Students are able to stretch themselves, they're able to get extra support and advice when they need it."

**Want to know more about our e7 Pilot for iPad?  
Get in touch with the team on the details below.**

