



CASE STUDY

ABOUT COMPUTERS FOR PUPILS

The UK Government launched the Computers for Pupils (CfP) initiative in 2006 - 07 and updated this in January 2008 to reflect the additional funding providing, 'Access to Technology at Home'. This funding is targeted at Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils resident in the 10 per cent most deprived areas in England. This initiative is important for Manchester as it places the emphasis on personal access to ICT and the Internet at home. Research shows that pupils' use of ICT, including in the home, raises standards, supports personalisation, improves their ICT skills, provides more options for what they learn and how they learn it, supports homework and revision and increases motivation.

In round 1 Manchester Procured 4700 Toshiba satellite pro A200 laptops some with 3G connectivity. In general these computers have been well used. When we analyse the problems that we are getting with the machines they all relate to how the equipment is used and cared for in the home.

Lessons learned from the first round

- Look at how pupils and their families will use the computers. This is not just about the pupil use but engaging with parents and narrowing the digital divide.
- Ask a sample of pupils and their families to test and approve the equipment before the main order is procured
- Listen to feedback from all stakeholders and act on it
- Involve pupils and their families in selecting the ideal solution
- For a further round of procurement and what advice would they give to future recipients

For Round 2

Acting on the above we tested 8 different models of computer with the pupils in their own homes. All of these were net book type machines as this was specifically asked for. The reasons for the smaller machines were mainly around security as a small machine can easily be put away in a draw or cupboard when not in use. Larger laptops need putting in a bag and then the bag is difficult /inconvenient to hide in the home.

Security and care of the machines has been emphasised as all stages and is part of the responsibilities the pupil accepts for the long-term loan of the machine. (We have never encouraged the machines to be transported from

home to school due to the risk of theft).

Why did we choose to implement the Vye computer?

Firstly it was the pupils and their families who chose them after careful evaluation. The functionality of the Vye makes the machine ideal for single or group engagement.

- The battery life gave a good working time typically 5-6 hours (we only ever considered the extended battery)
- The quality of manufacture
- The robustness of the machine
- The large capacity hard drive (compared to other net books and UMPCs)
- The fact that the machine has the ability to run Vista (we actually use XP so the machine has plenty of capacity in reserve)
- The possibility of upgrading the memory should this be required
- The many methods of connection to the machine (Wireless, Bluetooth, RJ45 etc) which make the machine compatible with many peripheral devices which pupils have

While we have no photographs of pupils using computers in their own homes, we do have some of pupils using Vye machines in lessons at primary level.



This pupil is using a music program to compose and record the work.



These pupils are peer reviewing the work composed above. The use of the tablet mode allows pupils to work as a group and both interact. The USB speakers have been plugged in to allow the girls to play the composition to the class and comment on the quality of the work.



Reward for working well. These pupils have been allowed to play a game for a short time. Again the tablet mode allows for cooperative play and development of social skills.



Competitive work where pupils are playing a times table game. This requires keyboard input but the machine is easily switched from one player to another.

Being small and easily "got out" the Vye machines have allowed teachers to integrate ICT into everyday class work rather than having to spend a considerable amount of time getting a laptop out and set-up. The small footprint has meant that other materials do not necessarily have to be removed from the desk to make room for the machine. Pupils do prefer to use the machine as a Tablet as they feel that is easier for them especially when group working. Many fingers can point and interact with the screen.

Having a 5/6 hour battery life has also enabled schools to use these machines in on educational trips. Pupils from Manchester have very little awareness of life outside a city. Manchester has an outdoor education center in the Lake District.



A lunch break! The pupils have had to walk/climb up Loughrigg Fell. This is a hill in the central part of the English Lake District. They were then asked about what they had seen and experienced and to put these experience into a piece of work. The Vye machines allowed this.

The quality of the two following pieces of work is far better than we could achieve if we had walked back down Loughrigg and taken the bus back to the center, or even waited until the students got back to school. Even photographs used to illustrate the areas that had been traveled through to get to the top of Loughrigg, well above the tree line.

“ Freedom awaits me throughout the silence
 Through dismal darkness not one single sound
 The freezing wind is blowing with violence
 The trees they look like the about to pound
 Ferocious breeze awakes my disturbed sleep
 The sun shines brightly as I look outside
 The beautiful mountains and the lakes so deep
 Wondering hills with a map as a guide
 There are birds flying though the clean crisp air
 The sky their in seem to last forever
 Returning to the chaos seems unfair
 Thoughts and worries are as light as a feather
 Dreaming brought fear and worry over me
 Didn't know the beauty I would see”

by Jordanna S

“ Forget the anger and rage of the city
Leave our polluting home and messy life
Escape to the country where it's all pretty



Amazing places and lots of wildlife
Endless fields to jump, play, run around
Climb to the summit of mountains very high



Listen to the beautiful animal sounds
Watch the bird feed and fly high in the sky
Soaked while kayaking down a huge blue lake
Freedom finally released from your mind
So stop your denial and free your soul
Delve though the soil uninhibited mole ”

by Christopher F

Manchester has 2170 Vye machines at present but we are in the process of ordering another 2500.

“ I hope that all of the above gives some reasons as to why we have purchased the Vye machines. I could spend a lot of time going into technical specifications etc but for the children of Manchester the educational outcomes speak volumes about their engagement ”

Please feel free to contact me and discuss our reasons for choosing Vye machines for other queries and clarifications needed.

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