

Hand-held mobile interactive whiteboard

The Sydney Russell School is a forward-thinking secondary for students in Dagenham, London which continues to improve its results year on year to be a leading school in the borough. The school prides itself on its ICT facilities, and is committed to using the best of 21st century computer technology to support and drive teaching and learning.

Background and challenges

Construction has recently finished on a new school building and the blank canvas provided by the rooms presented a perfect opportunity to introduce new technology. Nikos Tsagkadakis, ICT teacher and vice principal, has the responsibility for developing ICT within the whole school environment, and had certain requirements in mind for equipping the new rooms: "The new classrooms were 852m and visibility of the whiteboard was a problem for the students at the far end of the room. Because of this, we chose to install large Supernova screens, and were looking for a device that would interact with the Supernova. The school had previously used Promethean ActivSlates, but we had found the pen to be overly sensitive and staff did not get on with them very well; an alternative solution was needed."

Solutions and benefits

The school began using the Mobi View™ hand-held mobile interactive whiteboard from elnstruction last December, and had a positive user experience right from the beginning as Nikos describes: "The transition from the traditional writing with an ink pen on paper to writing on the Mobi View was a positive one. The Mobi View™ pen is not over-sensitive, making it very easy to write with and use regularly."

The Sydney Russell School has equipped each of the 40 staff using the new building with a Mobi View™, assigning each one to a teacher rather than a room as Nikos explains: "In a school day, teachers will move around a lot and can now take their personal Mobi View™ set to their preferences with them for quick and easy use. This personal assignment of a device



also helps to ensure they are not lost; each member of staff has to take responsibility for their own device, and they carry them around like you would a mobile phone!"

Case study

The school initially planned to use the Mobi View™ as a mobile interactive whiteboard to control the lesson, as well as annotating and adding notes to material. However, staff have since realised the

potential of the product to transform learning with the range of tools that are available. Teachers are free to use the board as a tool in any lessons across the year groups to ensure that all students can benefit. Currently, the Mobi View™ is used by ICT, maths, physics, modern languages, as well as English and media. Nikos feels that a key function of the Mobi View™ is its flexibility of application, with each department able to tailor use to how is best suited: "For instance, modern languages uses the Mobi View™ extensively, but in a different way to how the ICT department does. While MFL uses the handwriting recognition tool more, maths may use it for demonstrating shapes and aiding accurate measurements but ICT uses it to record audio and visual demonstration clips."

Within the ICT department for example, Nikos feels that the Mobi View™ is a powerful tool for administration and classroom management. He explains: "At the beginning of the lesson, I demonstrate the skills that will be developed, and how to achieve certain objectives. To do this, I use the recorder tool in the Mobi View™ before the lesson, sit down with a microphone, and record step-by-step the process to create a walk-through video. These can then be edited and saved in our central resources bank under the specific topic, and linked back to a lesson plan. This then enables other teachers within the department to use the recording in their own lessons, sharing resources between us



and saving on the time and administration needed if each teacher had to create their own. This is a very powerful tool for the staff, as one day you might need to teach the same thing four times and it saves so much time being able to record it and store it!"

Nikos believes that the Mobi View™ is a tool that strongly supports the development of personalised learning across the school: "Because students can also access the resources created with the Mobi View™ in the central bank, if they are late, absent, or missed something or didn't understand it, they can access the video and go back over it at any time and at their own pace, as often as they like. This concept supports higher ability students as well; if they finish the assigned work, they can look at the work for next lesson in their own time, allowing them to progress at their own pace too. This is valuable for helping to give students options and to customise the learning process."

The mobility enabled by the Mobi View™ is a significant advantage in Nikos' opinion: "Using the Mobi View™ means I am not tied to the front; I can go to the back of the classroom, and mix with the students to watch the pre-recorded demonstrations. Because I am watching it too, they concentrate more, and I can monitor attentiveness as I do not have to turn my back to demonstrate."

Looking on a wider pedagogical basis, Nikos believes that the Mobi View™ is a catalyst that is revolutionising teaching at The Sydney Russell School, as he explains: "As teachers, we can now take learning and teaching to a whole new level that is more investigative than descriptive. Before, I was spending three quarters of my time answering low level questions on troubleshooting and how to do things. My lessons used to be dominated by 'sir, how do I do this again can you remind me?' Now I don't need to fulfil this role as students have the

videos created with the Mobi View™ in the central resource bank to remind them. This frees me, the teacher, up to focus on knowledge and understanding – why they do this rather than how to do it. Across the school, staff now have more time to explain how skills can be developed in other areas, to provide transferable skills for the future."

Future plans

Following the success of the Mobi View™ with both staff and students, The Sydney Russell School is to equip the remaining 75 staff with a device each. The school plans to link the Mobi Views™ with the visualisers already in use, so that screenshots from the visualiser can be captured, manipulated and annotated using the Mobi View™. Nikos comments: "As the next step, each member of staff will go through full training on the Mobi View™ and will be encouraged to share best practice with each other to ensure that the many benefits of the Mobi View™ continue to be maximised throughout the school."



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