

Laptops for languages



At the start of this year, the languages department had to vacate their fixed language multi media suite as it was needed as an extra classroom due to the growth within the school. So, we now have a new Sanako system which works online and is more flexible as we can use it with various classes in different rooms at the same time!

Pupils have been excited to use the new laptops with the specialised headsets which allow them to listen to recordings at their own pace and talk to each other in pairs and groups. Whilst they are talking the teacher can listen to them and help with pronunciation and other suggestions. Pupils can request help and have a private conversation with their teacher using the headsets. Best of all, the system allows teachers to collect the recordings and insert helpful comments into the recordings which pupils can then use as personal feedback.

Other functions are doing polls to check pupils' understanding and having a "playlist" of activities which can be tailored to pupils' individual needs. They can work independently and ask for help when necessary. Of course, we still use the laptops for the popular games such as Quizlet Live, Task Magic and Textivate whereby the pupils have so much fun, they don't realise they are learning!

A huge thank you goes to Steve Bartle who made our portable stand for the headsets – he is so talented! This is a great example of the Gateways community helping each other out in creative ways to benefit our teaching and learning.

Mrs Fiona Wilson