

## CREATIVE USE OF TABLETS IN SCHOOLS: MODULE 4

### SECTION 4.2 (1)

The UK Creative Classrooms Lab project this year has focused around ‘Liberating Learners’. This is the idea that the use of devices in the classroom can aid and support independent learning and most importantly help to develop those independent learning skills along the way.

The Skinners’ Kent Academy project has focused a Design & Technology year 7 group that were looking to design and manufacture their own table tennis bat. In the Explore phase we employed the use of ePace. *‘The idea behind is that it gives you a profile of the type of learner that you are and then it gives you a profile as to which areas are of strengths and which areas are areas of improvement.’*

What is great about the way in which we have done this project that we have had two classes running alongside each other, one that has used the ePace model and the devices and one that has not. The group that has been using the devices I have seen a real shift in teaching skills and independent learning skills of the students. Teaching techniques really started to change in the make phase. The ownership was placed on the students to find that information research that information on their own and really use their independent learning skills. *‘Watch the video on Edmodo to show you how to actually mark out your table tennis on your piece of wood’. ‘Apps like Edmodo have supported the ability of the students to have a central store of information that they can go to independently and at their own pace in order to find that information they need.’*

*‘An interesting use of the app Aurasma helps to provide the students with instructions on health & safety points in the use of machines. Using the app and the device an instructional video appears once the machine is aligned with the camera and this gives them everything they need to know in order to be able to use the machine safely and appropriately.’*

*‘The biggest change in our students that I feel I have seen they are building up their confidence. Students are less likely to put their hands up and ask for help and more likely to look at their device and see what they need to do next.’*

*‘I came to this school and we had iPads and to be honest I really did not know how to use it at first and then the teachers helped me a lot. They said you can do this on it, you can do that on it and then I started to get the hang of it and yes, it has helped me a lot.’(Keir, student)*

Boys always tend to struggle much more with independent learning skills than girls and what I have seen in this project that boys really flourish with their ability and confidence to go away use the devices and improve.

*‘Have you seen a difference in the way in which students have worked?’*

*‘Yes, it has. Students that are using the iPads where they have access to Edmodo – all of these kinds of devices and elements that we can incorporate to help facilitate their learning independently has really freed up my time as a subject teacher that I can go and spend time individually with other students. It means that students can actually progress at their own pace and what you tend to find is that they would go a lot faster because they are working individually.’*

*'Do you think that confidence plays an important part?'*

*'I do think that the project has had a very positive impact on the confidence of students.'*

*'We don't have to keep asking him what we need to do, what the tasks are. We can just look on our device and it is there for us so we can just get on with what we need to do.'*

*'I think the ePace evaluation has definitely had an effect on how the teachers teach and how we learn and I think it will definitely impact the way I am.'* (Davina, student)

*'Putting devices in the hands of all our students was absolutely the right thing to do to prepare them for the modern world and developing their independent learning skills.'*