Today

Bolton School Boys’ Division is an academically selective boys’ school with a 500 year history of creativity and innovation. Apple technology, principally the 1:1 iPad programme, enables students to be taught a broad and balanced curriculum that fully prepares them for the next phase of their education and the diverse and changing world of work. The 1:1 iPad programme enables boys to develop the vital creative skills linked to design, technology and computing that are essential for the 21st Century. Using Apple technology, teachers are able to personalise learning for all students by enabling them to learn independently, arousing their curiosity and therefore to experience personal success.

Vision

In seniors all boys in Year 7 participate in the nationally recognised Arts Award Programme for creativity.

87%

Boys in Y8 and 9 have achieved Bronze Arts Award by completing a personal project.

Learning

There have been significant improvements in boys learning at GCSE and A-Level.

61%

Boys achieve a grade 7 (A) or higher an increase of 10% pre iPad in 2014.

Success

Boys at Bolton School make better progress at A Level than their peers nationally by 45%.

What’s next

The new project based entrepreneurial activity will be launched, using the Arts award from Year 7 as a springboard.

100%

Boys in year 8 will design and create their own Bento Boxes.

Demographics

1185 students
112 faculty
Private
Y3-Y13

Apple products and services

Students

• 1:1 iPad
• Everyone Can Create
• Everyone Can Code
• Macbook Air Class Set

Teachers

• 1:1 iPad
• 1:1 Apple Pencils
• Apple Teacher
• Apple Classroom

Classrooms

• Apple TV

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45%

This is one of the highest value added scores in the UK.
Vision

At Bolton School we believe that technology is a powerful pedagogical tool that enables all learners to realise their full potential. The universal access to mobile technology empowers creativity and we aspire to have all students to become unique content creators. Our staff are flexible, adaptable and innovative; embracing change and finding opportunities where others would find challenge. During the recent pandemic our staff ensured that all aspects of school life carried on; the buildings may have closed but school never stopped and all students stayed on track. The senior leadership team aspire for the school to be recognised nationally as a centre for innovative teaching and learning and we share this expertise broadly with the educational community.

Learning

The best way to understand the impact of iPads on learning is to see it here.

Teachers and leaders have designed learning experiences within a broad curriculum that enables boys to find their unique passions and interests. The iPad enables boys to explore coding in a variety of ways, for example, in the junior school they use Sphero and Swift Playgrounds to develop critical thinking and a strong basic knowledge of the fundamentals of code. In the Senior school boys continue to use the Everyone Can Code resources but also explore the real world application of code through engineering projects. For example, all boys design, code and build self-driving buggies and create an electronic game.

As boys progress through school they become increasingly able to express themselves creatively using the iPad. They refine skills linked to specific software to make informed choices about how they can present and showcase their knowledge. For example in History boys create video to analyse events and explain their significance and in Geography they create animation to explain physical processes.

In Seniors all boys take part in the Arts award, blending digital and traditional methods to create a unique project that empowers them to express themselves in an original way.

All teachers complete Apple Teacher as part of their professional learning and use this knowledge to design effective learning experiences. In English boys use photography to inspire writing and in

Success

At Bolton School we constantly evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning with technology with headline results increasing since the introduction of the iPad. Student and parent feedback is increasingly positive about the impact technology has on learning. The Learning development group evaluate current research and implement controlled trials to measure impacts of using technology in the classroom. In one example, using the iPad for retrieval practice increased a class results by 15%. External government produced data also shows the impact that the iPads have had on learning. Prior to having 1:1 iPads boys only improved by an average of 2%, this improved 20% within 3 years of their introduction. Now, the first group to have had the iPad from the outset have improved by 45%.

What’s next

In Juniors the next steps are to strengthen links with the infants school in order to facilitate a smooth transition into a 1:1 iPad setting. Boys will develop their skills in the digital arts, with an emphasis on photography leading to the national Arts Award.

In Seniors we are looking at how technology build connections between different subjects and foster entrepreneurial opportunities. For example, the Art department are going to get boys to design and manufacture bento boxes using 3D printers and Vacuum forming tools. Working with other departments, alongside the Eco-Committee they will design and manufacture sustainable packaging, write effective marketing materials and then sell the products. This teaches not only the principles of design but also supports maths and literacy skills.

We will continue to work with other schools to share good practice and provide opportunities for children from a variety of backgrounds.

Links

- Staff and students discuss the use of iPads here
- Listen to staff and student voices on our vision for creativity here