

The de Ferrers Academy

Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, UK



Today

The de Ferrers Academy is a large 11-18 school and part of The de Ferrers Trust, spread across 3 campuses, with 2350 students of all backgrounds/abilities.

We were an early innovator/integrator of learning technologies, becoming West Midlands Focus School for SSAT ICT Register (2007-2010), ICT Mark (2007, 2010), BECTA Excellence award shortlisting (2009). We adopted the first Midlands 1:1 iPad programme in 2012, became an Apple RTC in 2013 and joined Apple Distinguished School Programme in 2015. Staff have taken leading roles in 3 Erasmus+ research projects on integrating mobile technology/iPad and welcomed hundreds of researchers and educators from Europe, USA and Vietnam and worked with over 1000 student teachers on digital AFL.

VISION

- To improve student learning outcomes
- To equip all our students and staff with “21st century”
- To ensure that the 1:1 iPad programme is both 100% inclusive and sustainable
- To leverage potential of mobile technologies to support 24/7 access to digital resources



SUCCESS

- Student & staff surveys consistently positive about iPad across all subjects and faculties.

95%

of lessons include use of iPad during some of the lesson phases



DEMOGRAPHICS

- 2350 students
- 3 campuses
- 12 faculties
- Academy
- Years 7 - 13

APPLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- All students 1:1 iPad
- All teachers 1:1 iPad
- 2 Mac Suites
- 2 sets of 16 MacBooks
- 60 Apple TVs
- Interactive textbooks
- Everyone Can Create
- Apple Regional Training Centre



LEARNING

Open the link below to view our use of apps in lessons through our latest 4-part learning cycle



WHAT'S NEXT

September 2021 : Full scale 1:1 iPad roll-out to every Trust Y7 & Y8 student in our 3 secondary schools

2700

Total number of staff & student 1:1 iPad at The de Ferrers Academy



VISION



We introduced iPad as an 'equaliser' to ensure all students had access to modern learning tools and identical opportunities to make progress, whatever their circumstances, with learning and inclusivity at the heart of our vision. Through a handful of transformational apps and regular, hands-on CPD, we have used iPad to 'supercharge' the crucial elements of Teaching & Learning to impact upon student outcomes. Embedding this in our learning cycle ensures it becomes part of everyday protocols/expectations. Over the last 3 years The de Ferrers Academy has been the strategic leader for the Trust-wide 1:1 iPad programme across 2 other secondary schools, allowing greater sharing of resources and teaching approaches.



LEARNING



All teachers, teaching assistants, technicians, student teachers on placement are given iPad as their main device for creativity and productivity. Using Showbie & Google Classroom as the main digital workflow tools allows students to use a wide variety of other tools to produce creative artefacts for explaining ideas and demonstrating knowledge, whether mobile Photoshop collages in Art, conceptual keynote decks in English Literature, audio recordings in MFL or student-curated books in Child Development.

The academy invested heavily in developing a new 4-part learning cycle and all staff receive extensive CPD in how to adapt key approaches and pedagogies to teaching & learning, using iPad as a catalyst to deeper learning. The tactile nature of iPad and its multimedia capabilities allow us to make extensive use of it to support digital retrieval practice, dual coding and spaced learning across all subjects and phases. Faculty focused CPD/self-study portal helps staff develop key apps and tools that offer most potential and impact.

Most lessons begin and/or end with an interactive quiz or AFL task and by harnessing iPad for these using a toolkit of apps, teaching staff can quickly assess understanding, spot misconceptions and engage in deeper questioning and discussion with students. In the 'You Do' demonstrate phrase, students make use of apps including Garageband, iMovie, Keynote and Clips to show and share their understanding.

Student survey	2013	2017	2021
iPad has a positive/very positive impact on learning Years 12-13	51%	87%	93%
iPad use embedded in majority of students' lessons	40%	83%	95%
iPad has a positive/very positive impact on learning Years 10-11	45%	88%	95%

SUCCESS



Lesson observations and learning walks consistently show iPad in constant use in over 90% of lessons, highlighting how well mobile technology is integrated into our daily routines. There continues to be a strong correlation between effective use of iPad/digital tools and exam outcomes/student positive feedback, especially for leading subjects such as PE, Maths, Science/Physics and Child Development. Individual stories of impact for certain students, including those in SEN, English as Additional Language and Pupil Premium groups show massive impact that having personal device 24/7 can have.

Moving from traditional, fixed ICT architecture to a fully mobile environment over the last 10 years helped us to save over £1million, through using resources more efficiently.

WHAT'S NEXT



Major strategic digital projects for 2021-2022 include:

- Expanding 1:1 iPad programme to include every Year 7 and Year 8 student across all 3 Trust schools, bringing total student devices to 2500 at de Ferrers Academy and 5500 across Trust
- Integration of Trust-wide digital skills programme for Year 7 and Year 8 including problem solving, digital literacies, Everyone Can Create and Everyone Can code.
- Creating branded academy 'interactive exercise book' templates with Pages across all faculties
- Producing further interactive textbooks for iBooks with University of Nottingham trainee teachers (runner up - TES Digital Innovation Award, 2017)
- New staff & student podcasting channels
- Pedagogy-focused, self-study CPD portal with hundred of video clips, theory notes and self-assessed quizzes