

1:1 iPad programme at The de Ferrers Academy goes from strength to strength

by Greg Hughes - Assistant Principal at The de Ferrers Academy

The de Ferrers Academy is a large, split-site 11-18 school in Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, with almost 2000 students covering a wide variety of abilities and backgrounds. Although we had done a lot previously with learning platforms and as part of the SSAT ICT Register, mobile learning was something we had largely ignored. However, 2 years ago we decided to re-energise e-learning and the iPad seemed the perfect tool with which we could achieve this – a shallow learning curve, large enough display to do serious work combined with amazing creative potential. Also, staff and students felt it was ‘cool’ technology, something not to be underestimated.

We are now 18 months into a highly successful 1:1 iPad programme at The de Ferrers Academy. Since September 2012 we have:

- Planned, piloted and introduced a successful 1:1 iPad scheme for all Year 10/12/13 students (over 820 students so far)
- Distributed iPad and provided training for 125 teaching & support staff
- Had 2 staff recognised as Apple Distinguished Educators (ADEs) in 2013
- Had one of our staff selected to attend the Apple ADE Global Institute in 2014
- Become an Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC)
- Delivered keynotes and workshops to over 600 educators since October 2013
- Had 3 video case studies and projects recorded with support from Academia/ Apple
- Hosted dozens of visits from education researchers, senior leaders and local teachers
- Developed a group of KS3 and KS4 Student Digital Leaders
- Forged links with local universities to develop use of learning technologies in teacher training for BEd, PGCE and Schools Direct

By September 2014 we will have our entire Y10-Y13 campus equipped with iPad for staff and students (around 1100 students). This has allowed us to start to save considerable money on worksheets, exercise books and textbooks, laptops and traditional PCs. We have just finished with our existing VLE and now resources and courses are being delivered via iTunes U.

A lot of this success is down to careful planning and the enthusiasm of key staff. Figure 1 shows some of the main areas that a 1:1 programme hinges upon. From the start of our journey, we focused on making Teaching & Learning the primary driver, with the iPad and underlying pedagogy acting as the turbocharger to speed up the students' academic journey. The support of an approved Apple supplier like Academia was invaluable in getting this right.

You can see in figure 2 the 4 main areas we concentrated on – Collaboration, Resourcing, Assessment For Learning (AFL) and Modeling – all vital to ensure our 1:1 programme had real impact. A small handful of apps (mostly free) has allowed us to improve the quality of AFL in lessons, massively reduce marking turnaround time whilst enabling much more effective feedback and also provide all students with consistently excellent resources.

Our students have been incredibly positive about the opportunities afforded by the 1:1 iPad programme, with 80% saying it has substantially benefitted their learning. They like the easy to use interface and the ability to carry all of their work and resources on a single device.



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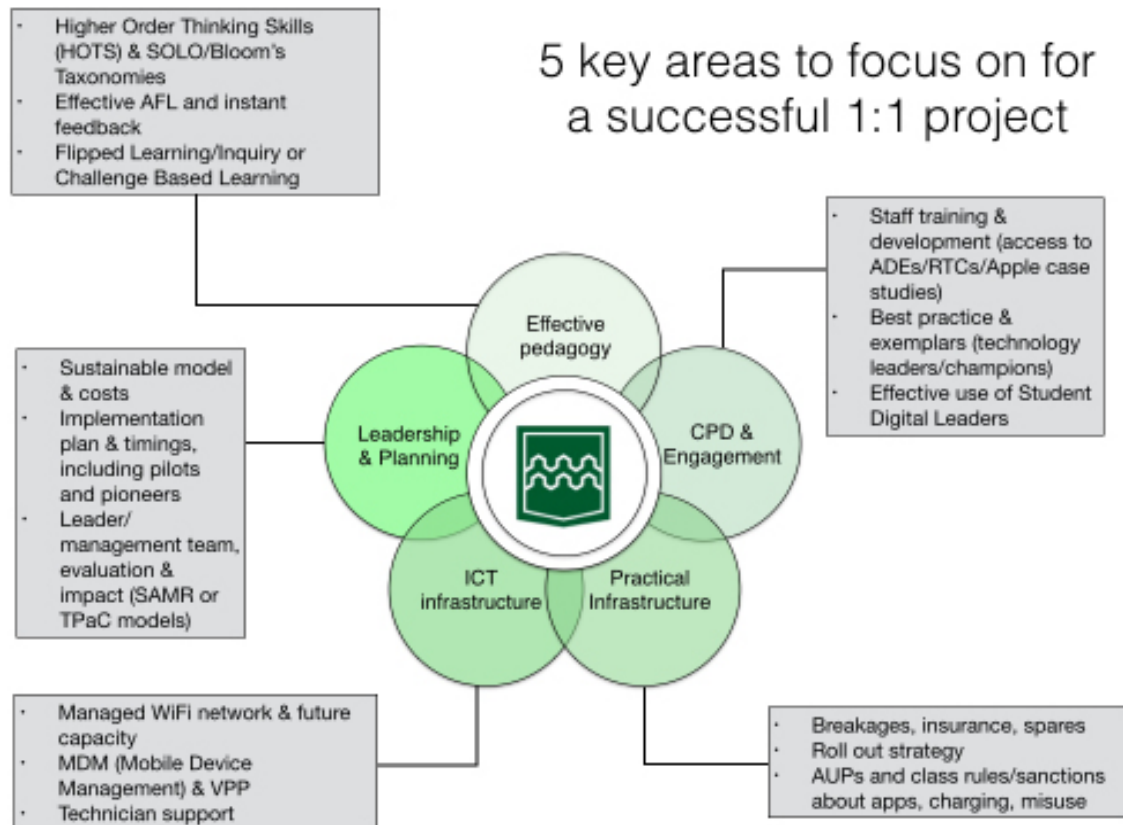


Figure 1

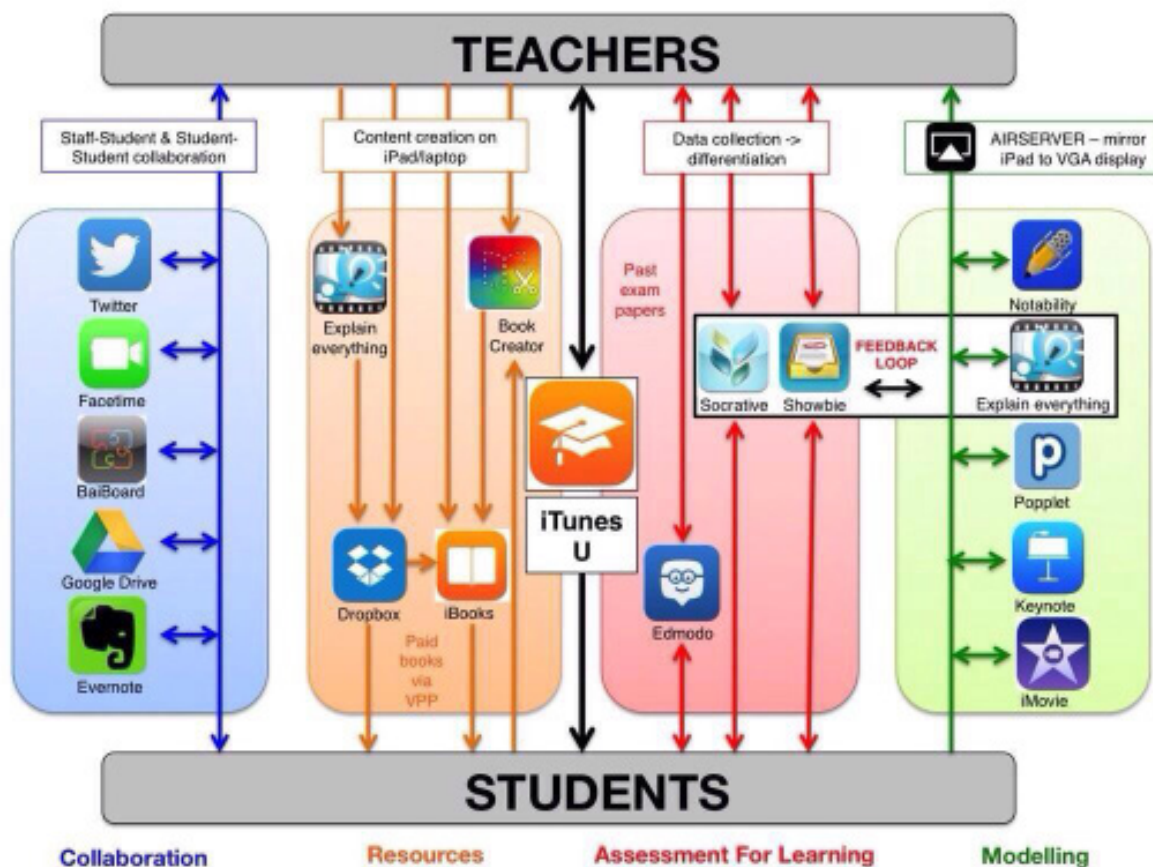


Figure 2



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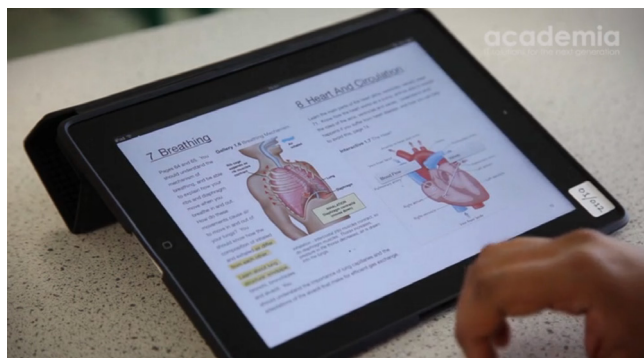
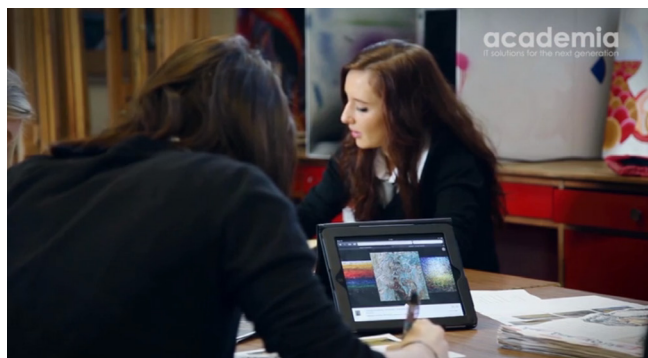
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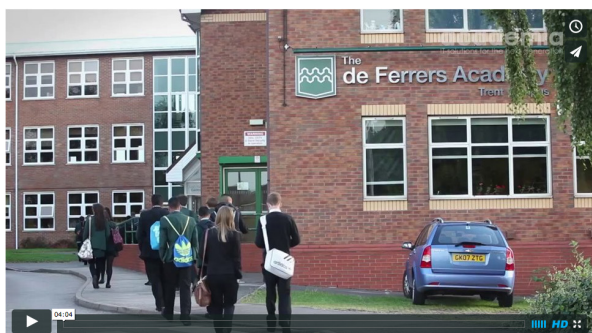
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We are now working hard with staff and students to consolidate what we do and continue to transform teaching & learning at de Ferrers. Already, we're seeing significant impact from the use of iPad on a 1:1 basis including:

- Greater confidence, independence and quality of work from students, especially those that are non-native English speakers
- Some A level students achieving well-above their target grades in subjects that are extensively using iPad/Flipped lessons format
- Some GCSE Maths & Science classes using iPad are significantly outperforming similar sets from last year
- Much more effective feedback and communication between students and teachers
- Improved support & scaffolding for students aiming to exceed their target grades
- Improved workflow & challenge in lessons

You can find the following videos at academia.co.uk/videos



Case Study: The de Ferrers Academy



The de Ferrers Academy - Learning with iPad - April 2014



Academia 1:1

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You can find out more on our iPad website: www.ideferrers.com,
or on our Apple RTC pages www.deferrers.com/rtc

You can also follow our 1:1 programme and ADEs on Twitter:
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