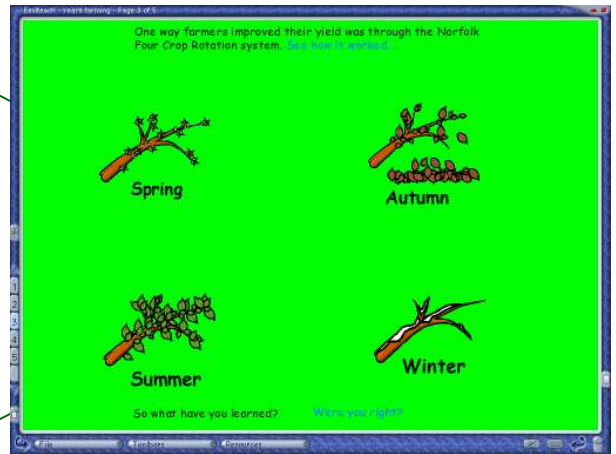


We-Learn

Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby Focus on: history

"I use the Tablet at the start of the lesson - but it's a great learning tool for pupils and teaching alike and students love to handle it and make inputs directly onto the screen in collaborative sessions. With We-Learn events come alive: your students can march down the muddy road to Ypres. It allows us to grip the imagination and learning capabilities of students in a new and exciting manner,"

Rob Reynolds, history teacher

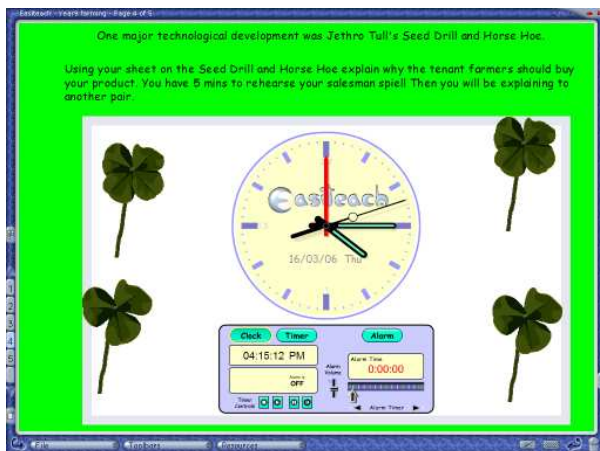


Introduction of We-Learn equipment

Rob Reynolds became involved in the Warwickshire E-Learning Leaders Scheme when he moved to Lawrence Sheriff school in 2006. As part of the scheme he began to use Tablet PCs and projectors more and more in his lessons and he felt that this could add real flair to his lessons. The whole history department is now using We-Learn.

We-Learn in action

The software helps students to fully analyse resources. Rob prepared a Year 8 exercise to examine the painting of Lady Jane Grey and to analyse the motives of the Victorian painter at her death scene. Instead of using a 'letterbox' of card to analyse each part of the portrait, the Easiteach spotlight was used to focus on areas in turn. Areas to look at later were blocked out by solid shapes and these removed one by one to 'rub and reveal'. This held the imagination of the class with its quality of reproduction and large-scale ease of use.



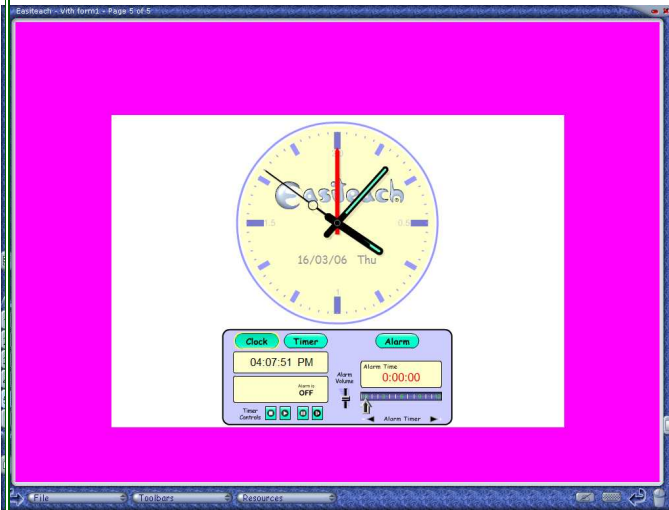
Hyperlinks within documents are also proving extremely useful. Rob has developed a flipchart of Trench Warfare for Year 9 using Easiteach, which maps the Western Front in 1914 and allows pupils to click and find out about each country and their alliances. Drawing a cross-section of a trench was really brought to life for students through a resource which pans through a real panorama at 360°. Film clips from the last century also spice up presentations.

About the school

Lawrence Sheriff is a secondary school and sixth form with 765 boys on roll. In 2003 it gained Specialist College status in maths and computing and has also won two school achievement awards.

The head is very supportive of ICT and IT staff. There are 2 ICT staff and 2 pupil teachers who support 500 computers. Plans for a new ICT centre are underway.

Pupils' comments: *"I liked it when I clicked on the cures of the plague and they spoke to me!"*
"The lesson was brilliant!" *"I liked the way I ran the lesson...!"*
"We were really in a trench... the start was great with the picture of the trench foot..."

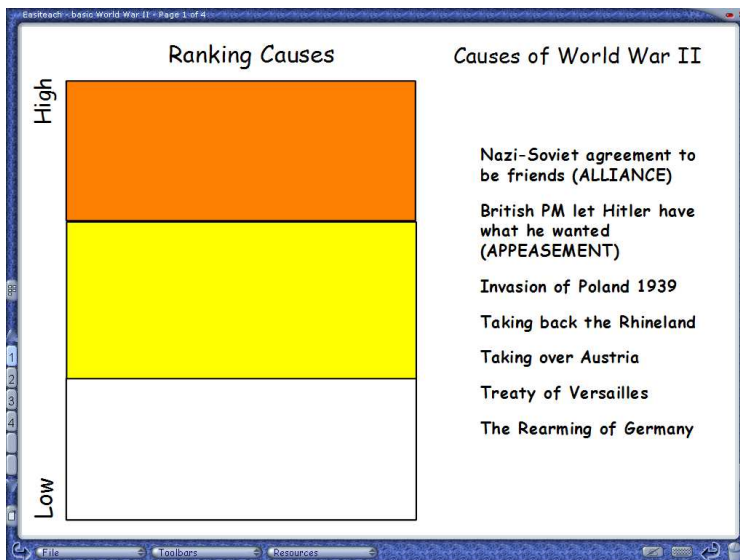


Considerations

Children have already come to expect this high level of preparation and high standard of resources. Combining the use of ICT with practical, physical activities such as making boats that are steam-driven by candles helps to keep pupils' attention. The school promotes cross-curricular working so that history teachers collaborate with geography colleagues. The head sees the school's Specialist College status in computing as offering "fresh and exciting possibilities for all parts of the school".

Benefits

- ❑ Pupils love to pass the Tablet around or to take it in turns to use the mouse
- ❑ Increases level of interactivity of lessons
- ❑ The teachers enjoy using We-Learn and the children are passionate about it
- ❑ We-Learn is transforming teaching throughout the school



Tips

- Time activities with the 'alarm clock' on Easiteach
- Use hyperlinks to show clips from news programmes
- Highlight words in yellow as it makes it easier for autistic children to read
- Play DVDs through the projector to introduce film or documentary clips
- Use 'glass mode' to overlay writing onto presentations
- The Tablet's battery normally lasts for four lessons, so recharge it over lunchtime

Next Steps

Rob and his colleagues plan to use the We-Learn portal with students so that they can access resources from home and submit homework using the portal.