

Tomlinscote School Sixth Form College

A DfES Designated Language College

"Learning for all, above all"



E-Learning at Tomlinscote School

Learning at Tomlinscote School is undergoing a radical transformation. We are keen to embrace opportunities to use technology in learning and teaching in all subject areas and the potential for personalising learning and increasing collaborative learning is now enormous. We will be making use of a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) called Fronter which is a sophisticated learning management system that allows students to access quality online courses with rich interaction anytime, anywhere.

The built-in tools and activities make for a unique learning experience, all within an intuitive, easy-to-use interface.

The VLE facilitates collaborative working through forums, peer assessment, blogs, wikis and chat. It provides the necessary tools for formal, informal and self-marking assessment. Most of all, the VLE provides an innovative, exciting way to enhance your learning.

Planning for the future

To enable widespread access to these new resources, the school is investing a considerable sum of money over the course of the next two years. The site is being equipped with state-of-the-art technology including powerful servers, a wired and wireless network and more than 270 desktop computers with flat-panel monitors. Every teaching room throughout the school is being equipped with a projector and sound system. Teaching staff receive regular professional development to continually improve their ICT competency and in-service training is geared towards delivering enhanced learning and teaching through the use of e-technologies. Our aim is to achieve a 1:1 ratio of students to computers with our intake of Year 7 students in 2010. However, we cannot do this alone.

Laptops and the VLE

In September 2010 we will be establishing an E-learning Foundation at Tomlinscote School to enable every child in Year 7 to access a laptop or notebook for use at home and at school. We intend to roll this scheme out to subsequent Year 7 students over the following five years so that laptop use gradually works its way up through the school. Having investigated similar schemes in schools around the UK and overseas we are confident that this approach will have an enormous impact upon learning and student motivation.

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Such schemes are achieved through monthly contributions made by parents for a device that can be used at home and at school. The level of contribution has yet to be established because technology will change in nature and in price over the next two years. We are also keen to establish the optimal level of contribution by working with parents in consultation. We need to balance affordability with quality.

An important principle of the e-Learning Foundation is that the funds are used to provide laptops for all students to use, irrespective of the ability to make donations. No child will be disadvantaged. If enough donations are received, when combined with the Gift Aid and government grants we should be able to provide laptops for all students to use in school and at home.

If there are enough donations, the Foundation will be able to provide every student with a laptop including:

- Microsoft Office and anti-virus software
- A comprehensive range of educational software to support our curriculum
- A padded carry-case
- 3-year extended warranty
- 3-year insurance for theft and accidental damage.

We will also have a laptop technician at the school to provide technical support and basic repairs, as well as a helpdesk to answer queries.

We have consulted with students, teachers and parents and received an incredibly positive response. 100% of the parents of Year 5 students who attended our consultation in November expressed support for this scheme. We welcome the involvement of other parents of students currently in Year 5. If you would like to take part in the consultation process please contact Mr Cooksey (Vice Principal) at icooksey@tomlinscote.surrey.sch.uk

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