

Self-monitoring: How can we challenge the brightest?

A recent Ofsted report asks whether the most able students are doing as well as they should in secondary school. This poses the question: What is the best way to respond to the individual learning needs of students in the classroom today? Particularly the brightest in class ask for additional challenges. E-learning tools can help to increase the motivation to learn and enhance the engagement of students at different skill levels.

London, 13 June 2013: An Ofsted report published today reveals that more than 27% of previously high-attaining students had failed to achieve at least a B grade in both English and maths in secondary schools. Schools therefore are being asked to set high expectations for all children. Rosetta Stone, leading provider of language learning solutions, suggests that with the employment of alternative learning tools, teachers and parents can better respond to individual learning needs of young people.

Firstly, with the employment of e-learning solutions, the skill of self-management can be developed: By learning to assess what to do, how to do it, when to do it, and if it was done correctly, the students' independence is increased and positive social skills can evolve. Particularly in the case of immersive language learning techniques, students are engaged actively from the beginning and immediate feedback allows them to control their own learning progress.

Secondly, research shows how the behaviour of today's students reflects, or should be reflected, in the teaching methods. The average digital learner focuses their attention for time chunks of 10 to 15 minutes. They also compile and assimilate whatever information is the most readily available and relevant to what they need to know. Typically, they tend to multitask when they learn –browsing, cutting and pasting, analysing and even socialising.

Students enjoy taking the learning process into their own hands. Martin, a German expat, lived for over 10 years in New York. Back in Germany, his two sons, 8 and 9 years old, learn English with Rosetta Stone in their free time: "Rosetta Stone works completely different than any other solution. It allows self-monitored learning. My boys sit down to learn with Rosetta Stone all by themselves. It doesn't feel like a chore in the same way that preparing for their piano lesson does. They like it because they control their learning progress and they experience it themselves, when they successfully move on in the programme."

Like the best immersion classes, technology-based immersion solutions provide systematic and clearly-sequenced content where the meaning of the new language is conveyed solely by the speech (and text) of native speakers. Sylke Riester, Managing Director Europe at Rosetta Stone, notes that 20,000 schools in 150 countries have been including Rosetta Stone as part of their language teaching activities. "Students and teachers respond to the programmes, which are used in classroom," Riester says. When blended in with the regular classroom activities, it can be adapted for different students depending on their level and can make the learning experience more powerful, for the teacher, parent and the student.

About Rosetta Stone:

Rosetta Stone provides cutting-edge interactive technology that is changing the way the world learns languages. The company's proprietary learning techniques—acclaimed for their power to unlock the natural language-learning ability in everyone—are used by schools, businesses, government organisations and millions of individuals around the world. Rosetta Stone offers courses in over 20 languages, from the most commonly spoken (like German, Spanish and Mandarin) to the less prominent (including Vietnamese, Swedish and Tagalog). The company was founded in 1992 on the core beliefs that learning to speak a language should be a natural and instinctive process, and that interactive technology can activate the language immersion method powerfully for learners of any age.

Rosetta Stone is based in Arlington, VA, and has offices in Harrisonburg, VA, Boulder, CO, Austin, TX, San Francisco, CA, Seattle, WA, Tokyo, Seoul, São Paulo and Dubai. The office for Europe is in London.

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