

# Townsend Church of England School



## The Context

Townsend Church of England School is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school who are committed to delivering the best possible education for their students. They deliver high-quality teaching and learning and pastoral care, utilising the latest technology, to create compassionate young adults who will go on to make a significant difference to their local community and the wider world.

Townsend is a school where everyone is welcome and everyone succeeds. All students are valued as individuals and all flourish in a community that lives by the values of love, compassion and respect for each other.

The school is eager to prepare students for the modern world and has introduced a 1:1 iPad programme for all 925 of their staff and students.



## The Challenge

### Increase digital skills

Townsend was keen to improve its digital skills and encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning. They recognised that they were teaching students during a “technological age” and aimed to ensure their pupils were “digitally literate”. Access to technology was sometimes restricted, as laptops needed to be pre-booked and were often in high demand.

### Reduce Teacher Workload

Teachers in the UK work more intensively and for longer hours than any other profession\*. Townsend School aimed to ensure that their new digital strategy effectively helped reduce teacher workload.

### Provide a level playing field

Townsend is a Church of England school guided by a bible-based vision inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan. It was crucial that any new digital strategy created a level playing field for all students, regardless of their background. No student should be excluded or left behind and it was essential that all students have equal access to the same technology needed to succeed.

Academia’s extensive experience in delivering successful 1:1 iPad programmes, combined with their status as an Apple Authorised Education Specialist, made Townsend’s choice of partner straightforward. Academia’s team was brought in to support Townsend with the deployment of the iPads, help with the infrastructure and deliver staff training.



\*National Education Union. [Teachers' workload and working hours.](#)



## The Solution

### 1:1 learning with iPad

Every student and teacher at Townsend has been given an iPad for use both at school and at home. The school and parents co-fund the device. The model is fully inclusive, with all students and teachers using the same device to ensure consistency and equity.

### Upskilling staff

A comprehensive staff training programme was developed for Townsend and delivered by David Maguire, Apple Professional Learning Specialist. Some staff members have progressed to become internal iPad champions. Their role is to lead and support colleagues in developing their technological skills and pioneering the use of iPad in their lessons.

Emma Scott and Kerry McIntyre are Townsend's lead practitioners and they help drive teaching and learning with iPad. They support staff and students and organise regular iPad workshops and briefings to share and demonstrate best practice.

### Why iPad

The senior leadership team at Townsend conducted thorough research and selected the iPad as their 1:1 device.

The benefits:

- ✓ Device portability allows students and staff to work both within and outside the school environment.
- ✓ Less paper use as marking and work submissions are now online. Textbooks are now digital, reducing costs and photocopying expenses.
- ✓ Widespread familiarity with Apple features makes the iPad easy for both staff and students to operate.
- ✓ Access to over 380,000 educational apps—something not available when using their previous devices.
- ✓ Accessibility features support vision, hearing, mobility, speech and cognition.
- ✓ A powerful, reliable and stable device.

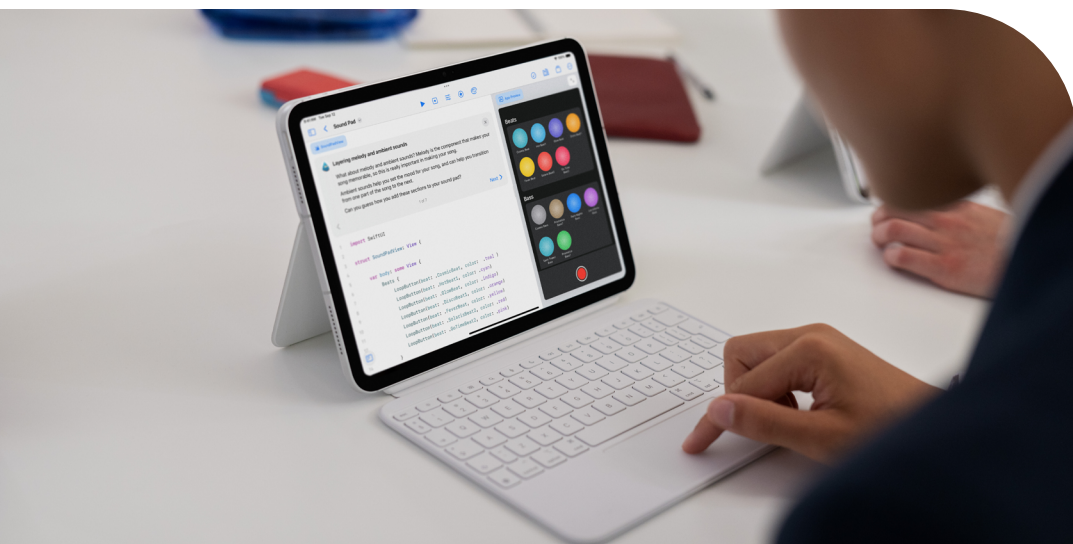
# The Impact of the iPad

## Independent learning

With the iPad, students are now empowered to take control of their learning and revision. They have access to a variety of resources and can confidently work on unfamiliar topics independently.

## Learn anytime, anywhere

Gill Llewellyn, Senior Deputy Headteacher, said, *"The ability for students to learn anytime, anywhere is huge. Our discovery centre at lunchtime is packed with students working and catching up with things that they may have missed. It is fantastic."*



## Improved engagement

Students are much more engaged as learning at Townsend has become more interactive due to the iPad and the Showbie platform. Showbie allows teachers to give verbal audio feedback to students through its Voice Note feature. This has enabled more personalised and detailed feedback than written comments. Students can use voice notes to annotate their own work or explain their thought processes.

The iPad has also had a positive impact on behaviour in lessons. Year 11 students are also much more engaged when revising for their GCSES.

## Digital feedback and assessment

Marion Buckland, Assistant Headteacher, said, *"The ability to provide verbal feedback has made marking work much quicker, helping to reduce teacher workload and improve efficiency. Also, the ability to do AI quizzes has been revolutionary. Realising that students have understood what you have discussed over the last 40 minutes has been very helpful, rather than waiting until the next lesson. The immediacy is fantastic."*

## Supporting absent students

The iPad has been a tremendous aid in supporting students who have missed school for various reasons. Marion Buckland said, *"You can give a student a revision book and know that it will stay in their bag and not see the light of day. Whereas the students are totally engaged with the iPad that they will access learning from home and try to catch up. They seem to be a lot more conscientious about their learning."*

## iPad champions and Apple Teachers

There are now several student iPad champions and Apple Teachers in Townsend. They support their peers and colleagues in effectively using iPads for learning, creativity, collaboration and problem-solving.

## Teaching mixed-ability classes

The iPad is a superb tool for assisting students with varied abilities. As Marion Buckland stated, *"The ability to adjust the pace of the lesson and go fast or slow is brilliant. If you notice that some students aren't understanding, you can assign a task to those who have grasped the content and then support those who need a little more help."*



*The introduction of the iPad 1:1 has transformed the way Townsend School operates. Teaching & Learning has been revolutionised, with students benefitting from a wide range of learning opportunities that enable all students to learn in great depth and make further progress. Teachers are reflecting on their pedagogy, blending instructional techniques with child-centred guided learning. Student motivation has increased as a result of our 1:1 iPad scheme, with more young people engaged in their learning.*

**Anthony Flack**

Head Teacher

Townsend Church of England School

## Looking Ahead

Townsend has felt the benefit of extensive iPad training from Apple Professional Learning Specialists and is planning to hold more sessions to help some teachers progress. The school is also keen to ensure that all staff complete their Apple Teacher qualification.

The school is also eager to ensure that various departments share best practices. Gill Llewellyn said, *"Our library has created some fantastic digital content and is leading the way in integrating this content into their lessons and curriculum. I want to see different departments working collaboratively and sharing knowledge to improve their practices. Other areas of development include exploring the App Goodnotes to support note-taking for students and developing the iPad into our assessment policy."*

The iPad programme's success and the commitment Academia has demonstrated have made a lasting impression on the school. Anthony Flack said:

*"A huge thank you to Academia for their invaluable support in making this transformative initiative a success. This is a game-changer for teaching and learning at Townsend. We're thrilled to see the impact it's already having in our classrooms. We look forward to seeing the incredible things our students will achieve with this technology in their hands. We're grateful to Academia for their unwavering support and expertise through this journey."*





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