# DIGITAL LEARNING @
## HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

In the Autumn Term 2022-23, we introduced our ambitious digital learning programme, starting with Years 7 and 8. Our aims are clear - to enhance, extend and enrich the curriculum to support students' learning and progress, as well as to prepare our students for living in a digital world, and to ensure they are skilled up ready for the world of work in our local region, often called the 'Silicon Valley of Europe'.

We asked our students what they thought about having access to a laptop in every lesson, every day so that they have the right tools at hand. Here is a sample of their feedback:

You can find more details about our rationale, the benefits seen by other school's over many years, and the underpinning educational research [here](here):

"I like how there are research tools available quickly, and having an organised OneDrive system."

"It is often collaborative."

"It gives everyone a chance to answer and contribute to the lessons."

"It helps me to research further on the topics the teacher has taught me and I can learn how to use computers at the same time."

"Everyone gets to talk, even if they are shy"

"Easy to access resources and make notes"

"It is more interactive"

Students have been making wide and varied use of their laptops in their lessons to enhance, extend and enrich their learning. We've listed some of these below as examples:

- Analysing text in English lessons using Office tools
- Exploring Biomes in Africa using a range of weblinks in Geography
- Use of simulators for electrical circuits in Science, e.g. PHET circuit builder
- Researching cultural art to assist in own drawings in Art
- Accessing shared sources to support analysis in History lessons
- Keeping a record of health and safety controls when using tools in Design and Technology
- Programming using Scratch in ICT/Computing

- Recording and sharing notes in OneNote
- Use of Blooket to support knowledge retrieval and assessment of map skills in Geography
- Creating presentations linked to different themes in English
- Recording and analysing science experiment data using Microsoft Excel
- Exploring the Middle Ages to provide context for studying The Canterbury Tales in English
- Analysing the relationships between development data, e.g. wealth and life expectancy, using GapMinder interactive tool
- Developing understanding and knowledge of language, e.g. synonyms, etymology, antonyms, in English
- Conducting virtual experiments investigating photosynthesis in Science

- Using interactive tools using Desmos platform in Maths lessons
- Exploring themes more widely by accessing a range of online resources in RE lessons
- Completing activities in Career Pilot to support careers education during PSHCE lessons
- Using Kahoot! in Maths lessons to check understanding
- Accessing reading resources and STAR tests in Accelerator Reading lessons
- Using NearPod to collaborate with others in the class in History
- Providing greater independence in translating text in Spanish lessons
- Sharing ideas with others in the class using Microsoft Teams chat

If you have any questions about how digital technology is helping our students' learning and progress, please contact Mr Clawson [Assistant Headteacher, Learning and Teaching]