Buddhist Wong Cho Sum School

Name of Awarded Teacher : Lit Suk Han

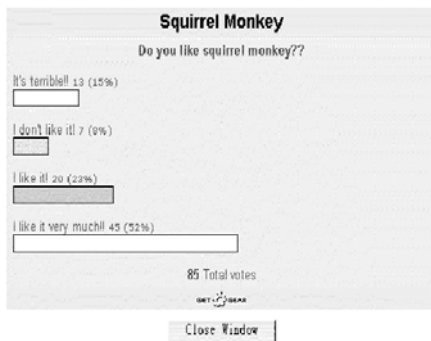### Using IT as an Effective Tool of Learning English

Introduction

Many students in Hong Kong are not motivated to learn English because they think that English is a very difficult subject.

As a teacher of English, I try my best to use different strategies to motivate and then build up students' confidence in learning English. Since many students enjoy playing computer games and surfing the Net, I always wonder if I can make use of IT to help my students to learn English in an effective way.

My school has been the pilot IT school since 1998. We have IT facilities in each classroom and it can facilitate our teaching.

How can I implement IT in our school-based curriculum?

I started a small reading project that involved one Primary Three class with the help of the Curriculum Development Institute (CDI) of the then Education Department in 1998. In that project students learnt reading in an interactive way by using E-Story software. The students recorded their speech on the computer and practiced their intonation. They all enjoyed the visual effects of the teaching package and we found that their motivation was aroused and they enjoyed reading the E-Books.

This was a good start and it also built up my confidence in using IT to teach English. I discussed this with my colleagues and thus we designed more IT programs for improving their writing skills.

In 2000, we worked with the CDI again. We taught Primary Six students to use IT and completed a project about animals. They made a 'Cyber Zoo' on the web page and then presented their work by using PowerPoint and a presentation tool called 'MP Express'.

We then uploaded their work on our school homepage and asked the whole school to vote for their favourite animals by using the on-line voting tools. We also hyper-linked our 'Cyber Zoo' to a world project web site called 'School World' so that all the people around the world could visit the 'Cyber Zoo'. The students were eager to learn and willing to try. The students showed great interest in this activity.

In recent years, we tried to implement IT in the teaching of phonics and writing. We invited the NETs to demonstrate the correct pronunciation of the sounds and recorded them as the teaching resources. In order to encourage students to write more, we also designed the writing tasks which required them to write their own piece of work by using E-Writing software. They chose the pictures from the software according to what they had written. Their interest was aroused.

In 2001, we developed our own school-based E-Learning courseware. We joined the E-Schoolbag Project and became one of the pilot schools. Thus we needed to design learning courseware by ourselves. The courseware was interactive and with different levels so as to cater for individual needs. The students could learn at their own pace and develop the generic skills through this project.

http://www.bwcss.edu.hk/~e-schoolbag/

In all, I think that using IT is an effective way of learning English. We can start small but think big. We now have E-Book learning packages from Primary One to Primary Three. Students work and present their projects by using IT. It is really meaningful and valuable for me to use IT in the teaching of English. It can arouse their interest and the most important thing is IT can build up their knowledge in various aspects. We will try our best to develop more learning resources in the future so as to achieve the aims of learning English with confidence and creating an enjoyable and a natural learning environment for our students.

Way of Access to Further Information of the above Teaching Practice

Please e-mail to the ATE Secretariat (ate@emb.gov.hk) stating the specific information you would like to obtain.

Preferred Way of dissemination / collaboration

Please refer to the latest news of sharing activities organized by the ATE Teachers Association.
Website: www.ate.gov.hk

Contact

ATE Secretariat: www.ate.gov.hk

Remarks of the Assessment Panel

The IT learning packages which Miss Lit designed with her colleagues enable students to learn English actively and pleasurably. The students are encouraged to make use of IT knowledge during English lessons and they are highly motivated to design their own creative materials. Through the use of IT, students become more motivated and can gain greater confidence. Apart from sharing her experience with colleagues and encouraging them to carry out trials, Miss Lit has demonstrated a teaching role model in various experience sharing activities e.g. teaching demonstration talks, seminars and experience sharing sessions.