Internet Homework
Good or Bad?

I.C.T Homework   7/7/04

In I.C.T we have been discussing about whether we think we should download homework from the school website, and then e-mail the completed work back to our school teacher.

I think this could be a good idea because it would be quicker and easier. Although this is not at all practical. This is because some students don't have their own computer, and some that do, don't have internet access and the some that do have internet access might not have it all the time – this would be a big problem resulting in many of the students not being able to do their work.

Some might say " but the people that don't have computers can do the work on paper". This might seem quite a good and ordinary idea, BUT IT'S NOT. I'll tell you why. It is because it creates a barrier between two types of people, the people that do homework on the computer and the people that do homework on paper. In other words the rich and the poor. Do you not think it's unfair to let some people do homework the easy way– on the computer, and make others do homework the hard way with pen and paper. I DO. This method of education will cause terrible problems, the students without computers may get picked on and teased, and this will pressurise them into trying to get a computer– which they can't afford. If you live in a council house, without a job or much money on a small benefit allowance how are you ever going to be able to afford a £800- £1000 computer? You can't just starve your children for a couple of years, just so you can afford a computer to try and educate your children.

People may say, " Computers are now very cheap at only about £300– £400 each even with included printers." This isn't really true, they may be sold this cheap in a shop, but they're not as good quality, there more likely to crash or catch a deadly virus. Anyway it isn't just that simple, you have to be able to use a computer and know how to download. It will still take a long time to download; as every home work is only half an hour then if it takes 20 minutes to download the you can only spend 10 minutes learning. If you look at the old method – paper and pen, you will see that you spend homework time doing it; you will spend the whole half an hour learning– not sitting at a desk waiting for your work to arrive. With the new way people can also make up easy excuses like; I didn't receive the homework or my computer crashed, there is nothing the teacher can do because they don't know whether the student received the homework or not. An argument against this may be saying " What about broadband?" It is quicker and easier to use but there one downfall – THE PRICE. Broadband can cost up to £30 a month again this will create more and more problems because it is very expensive. It means more money that parents have to pay – more money that some parents don't have.

As I have said some people won't be able to use the computer, either the can't or don't want to. What happens now, do they just keep on doing homework on paper or do we make them use a computer, if so it has become a school rule. What happens now do you expel them or …. or what?

Overall I think it will be a bad idea, although it has some good points. It isn't fair to make people do different things just because they do or don't have a computer. It may work in the future, when everyone has a computer, but for now it won't work.

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