The Principles of the Use of IT in Senior School Age Groups

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Abstract

The new generation is our present but it will build our future. Therefore, we have to promote the development of students' personalities according to the needs of the 21st century. A collection of teaching / learning materials was worked out to help students learn more effectively and to raise their motivation.

Provided we understand the new generation, its lifestyle and needs, the most appropriate teaching / learning methods can be chosen. Social activity, mutual communication and modern technologies are defining characteristics of this generation. Accordingly, the methods which include learning through communication and modern technologies as well as interaction and cooperation accompanied with passion and praise in the lesson were chosen. Besides discussions, on-line learning and using a computer in the study process are also most preferred by students themselves. Another tool is m-learning (using mobile phones) which can improve students' performance, e.g. in a survey. Students also highly evaluate learning from other people who are not teachers as friends and people are one of their main values of life.

Consequently, we can gain higher students' motivation for any subject. Also students' independence and technology skills are developed as they find it exciting to study on the Internet. Furthermore, discussions, debates, expressing opinions promote students' critical thinking, analysing abilities and communication skills. The development of students' sense of responsibility and other social skills is a topical issue nowadays which can be developed in cooperative group work. Communication using different computer programs improves students' language skills while face-to-face communication makes the learning process even more exciting.

Apparently, teachers should be aware of the characteristics and needs of the new generation and the period of time we live in. Thus we can provide students with the most appropriate teaching / learning methods. Lessons based on Internet materials and different computer programs and the communicative and cooperative approach would be of high value for our students so as they can get the highest results at school and in life now and in the future.