

Chromebooks enable CSG Jan Arentsz to offer tailor-made teaching



At a Glance

Objective

- Improve the existing electronic learning environment for the 21st century, with a flexible system and fast, user-friendly hardware.

Strategy

- Piloted Chromebook in two classes, and provided training for teachers
- Drew up a phased plan for effective one-on-one teaching.

Results

- Students are more enthusiastic, and more willing to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Small ICT team is developing increased volumes of teaching materials.
- Better cooperation and interaction between students and lecturers and more extensive materials.

"The Chromebooks are up and running in ten seconds, and the batteries last an entire school day."

*—Rogier de Wit, ICT Team Leader,
CSG Jan Arentsz*

Background

CSG Jan Arentsz operates a secondary school with campuses in the Dutch towns of Alkmaar and Langedijk, around 200 teachers and 2,300 pupils.

Sonja Vroling, Team Leader for level 1 and 2 secondary education, describes the school's vision. "If you're going to be well prepared for higher education in the 21st century, you need a variety of skills: ICT, teamwork, media, global citizenship, communication, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, motivation and concentration. We put a great deal of emphasis on these, because they're an essential part of moving on to university and eventually contributing to a fast-changing society."

The challenge

The school was already using an electronic learning environment with laptops, desktops and computer rooms, but changing educational needs had increased the demand for tailor-made digital teaching material, both inside and outside the classroom.

"We spent a very long time planning and looking at ways of offering one-on-one teaching with each student having their own computer," says Education and ICT Coordinator Kees Koopman. "We didn't like the idea of 'bring your own device', because it would be impossible to get any teaching done if everyone's hardware and software were different."

The solution

So the school came up with an alternative strategy: bring your own Chromebook. This lightweight device starts up very quickly and avoids wasting valuable teaching time. It was successfully piloted in two classes



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About Google Chromebooks

Chromebooks are fast, portable computers that give students access to the web's rich educational tools & resources. Educators can manage Chromebooks easily from their web-based Admin Console. And starting at just £199 per device including Google Apps for Education for free, these computers make technology affordable for schools. You can learn more here:

www.google.com/edu/products/devices/



in the last academic year, receiving an enthusiastic response from teachers and students alike. After a series of workshops and presentations, staff were no longer asking why they needed the Chromebook: they were coming up with new ways of using it.

The benefits

One of the biggest advantages of the Chromebook is the ability to work cooperatively and share documents. Students no longer lose their work, because it's safely stored in the cloud, and have shown a remarkable commitment to working together, accepting responsibility for their own learning and showing a great deal of creativity and initiative.

Closer cooperation between students and lecturers creates cross-fertilisation and improves the quality of teaching materials. Chromebooks have made the existing electronic learning environment much more effective, and students can even take material developed by their teachers and adapt it for their own use.

The school wants every student to have their own device for schoolwork both inside and outside lessons. "Our motto is 'Learn through exploration, explore through learning,' and that's exactly what we're doing here," says Kees. "We want students to leave school knowing they have the skills and resources to make the next step into the future."