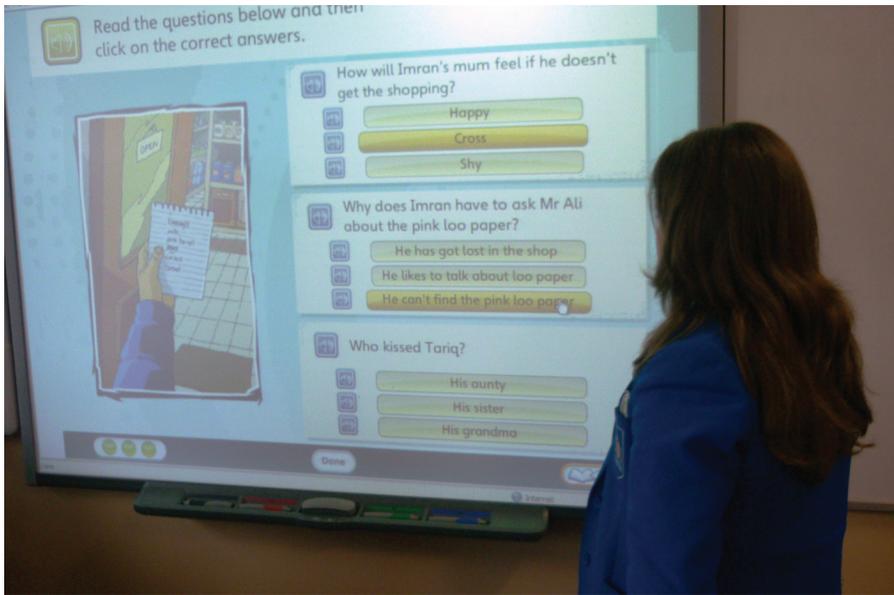


## Learning by doing

# SMART Boards helping St Mary's College to achieve high levels of success in STEM subjects



Students are encouraged to use the SMART Board during lessons.

"You learn by doing," says Paul Wade, ICT Manager at St Mary's College in Derry, "so when it comes to ICT our motto is 'let's give it a go!'" This pioneering spirit has proved highly effective, and the imaginative use of SMART Board® interactive whiteboards and other interactive learning technologies has played a key role in helping this award-winning school reach such excellent educational standards. As well as doing well in public examinations, pupils are achieving high levels of success across a range of subjects and activities from Science, Technology and Engineering to Maths, ICT and Music.

An all-girls' faith school for pupils of 11-18 years, St Mary's College moved into a superb new hi-tech campus in 2010. Although there were some ICT facilities in the old building, the move to new premises provided the ideal opportunity to create a modern and comprehensive ICT infrastructure for 21st century learning. The school's 900 students now enjoy state-of-the-art facilities, ranging from video conferencing and recording studios to vibrant learning spaces which all feature SMART Board interactive whiteboards. "We were invited to a demo of SMART Boards, and everyone was very happy with them," says Paul Wade. "They were very easy to use, whether with a finger or a pen, and the SMART Notebook™ software was very responsive and intuitive."

A couple of weeks before the new building opened its doors, the school's entire teaching staff of 60 were taught how to use the new whiteboards. The mixture of basic training for new users and higher level training for more experienced users was delivered by Steljes, the authorised representative of SMART Technologies in the UK and Ireland. "The training was excellent, and really well received by staff," says Paul Wade. "They have come on in leaps and bounds in terms of designing their own teaching and lesson resources, and are now very comfortable using the SMART Boards and SMART Notebook software. We're now ready to move on and want to take our skills to the next level."

### Challenge

To provide a flexible and effective learning environment to improve educational outcomes.

### Solution

SMART Board® interactive whiteboards, SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software, SMART Response™ interactive response system, SMART Document Cameras.

### Result

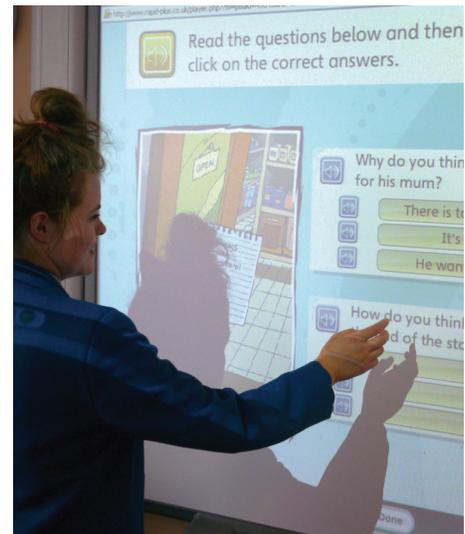
Helping to improve student engagement and educational outcomes.

SMART Board interactive whiteboards are now firmly established as the main teaching tool at St Mary's College – “part of the wallpaper” as Paul Wade describes them – and fully supported by SMART Notebook collaborative learning software for the creation of lesson content and resources. Maths teacher Eugene Moore says: “We've seen improved results, improved participation, and improved layout of work by the teacher. As SMART Boards allow the interactive manipulation of images, pupils are more visually engaged, more stimulated, more focused and more responsive. They participate more actively and energetically in questions and games on the SMART Boards, and everything is quicker and clearer.”

A key feature of SMART Board interactive whiteboards is their flexibility, and how they're used varies according to the needs of individual departments. “We create fully dynamic lessons using a variety of software packages, and the interactive elements are particularly useful for Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology,” Paul explains. “The content is easier to perceive and understand visually, and the ability to manipulate things like backgrounds, text and text size, images and image size has allowed pupils to see, use and understand lesson objectives so much more clearly. It also helps to reinforce understanding for the significant number of our pupils who are audio-visual learners.”

Eugene agrees: “We use the SMART Boards in all sorts of ways, and the students love using them. Doing games like ‘Deal or No Deal’ for Maths questions are particularly engaging, and a good way of learning by stealth.” He is equally enthusiastic in his role as the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator: “We find that iPads and the SMART Boards are really effective in helping withdrawn students with literacy, spelling, phonics and reading. The ability to manipulate and change the visual elements is especially useful for pupils who have dyslexia, and those who have attention deficit issues. Pupils with specific learning difficulties use the audio elements (such as repeat, play, record) for reinforcing and breaking tasks into sub-tasks.”

Rather than dampening the school's enthusiasm for technology, the tough economic climate is acting as a spur to creativity: “We can't keep investing at the same level,” explains Paul Wade, “so we have to make better use of what we have.” As well as taking its use of SMART Board interactive whiteboards and SMART Notebook software to the next level, St Mary's College is also making more and more use of SMART Document Cameras for practical demonstrations or projecting detailed work onto the SMART Board for the whole class to share. The school's History and Maths departments are currently trialling SMART Response systems, which are fully integrated with SMART Notebook and offer teachers instant feedback from students via quizzes and individual or multiple choice questions. “The children are surrounded by ICT outside school – we have to keep up!” he concludes. “We want to send our pupils out into university and the workplace with the all-round ICT skills they need in today's world – and interactive technology like SMART Boards will play a key role in making that happen.”



SMART Boards are helping to reinforce learning.

**“We want to send our pupils out into university and the workplace with the all-round ICT skills they need in today's world – and interactive technology like SMART Boards will play a key role in making that happen.”**

**Eugene Moore**, Maths teacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator, St Mary's College

### About SMART

SMART Technologies is a leading provider of collaboration. SMART Technologies Inc. is a leading provider of technology solutions that enable inspired collaboration in schools and workplaces around the world by turning group work into a highly interactive, engaging and productive experience. SMART delivers an integrated solution of hardware, software and services designed for superior performance and ease of use, and remains a world leader in interactive displays.

## Steljes Limited

Bagshot Manor,  
Green Lane, Bagshot,  
Surrey,  
GU19 5NL  
Phone 08450 758 758  
info@steljes.co.uk  
[www.mysmartspaces.co.uk](http://www.mysmartspaces.co.uk)