Computer Assisted Education offers many benefits to both students and teachers. The benefits range from small things like keeping track of attendance and assignment submissions or test scores online rather than on paper, to larger more important ones like helping students with learning disabilities, and disabilities or illnesses that perhaps cause them to miss multiple days of school. It also allows for a more interactive learning environment with the use of educational games and videos, which is a benefit to teaching a younger audience, mainly primary school who are not so interested in hearing a PowerPoint lecture. As Scott says in her article “Let’s be real: A bored student isn’t a good one. While some students adore lectures, many others require more stimulation to stay involved and actively learning. CAL is perfect for this, because it offers many ways for each individual student to engage and stay interested in the topic at hand.” (Scott, n.d.). Another point that Scott makes is how the interactive games cater towards the individual “With CAL, each student can go at their own pace and make progress in their own time. Computer lessons or games normally adapt to the individual based on their own progress, not on a set standard, so each student is able to have a more personalized experience.” (Scott, n.d.)

As I’ve stated above, one of the most important benefits of CAL is help with learning disabilities. The most common learning disabilities is dyslexia. “Dyslexia is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Also called reading disability, dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language.” (Staff, 2017)  
Many schools across Ireland provide laptops or similar devices for students with dyslexia to used both at home and in school during the academic year or allow the student to bring their own if they have one. Universities might not necessarily provide laptops but offer students software that will assist the in reading and writing for example Grammarly, as well as having notes and lecture slides in a more readable format, one that perhaps allows an easy use of text to speech.   
CAL also benefits students with illnesses or disabilities that cause the student to miss multiple days and unfortunately be behind on class material. Websites such as Sulis where the lecturer can upload lectures, tutorials, videos and other materials are a huge benefit to those students. If more secondary schools used such websites even just for the disadvantaged students who they don’t always have a chance to meet one on one or whose progress they can’t fully see in class, it would be to great benefit as those students wouldn’t have to worry about being behind or having to catch up on a unreasonably large amount of material. They could also have access to other resources that could help them study at home like direct contact with the teacher or extra material given by the teacher that would normally be mentioned in class and not necessarily in textbooks or notes.

Speaking of one on one and student progress, schools and especially universities often have more than thirty students per one class and have multiple classes which doesn’t allow for much time with each individual student. CAL doesn’t just mean showing videos or interactive games it also helps the teacher in assessing each student as an individual or the whole class as a collective group. This benefits the teacher as they can see the progress of those students who are not always in class or might be embarrassed to ask for help. The teacher can see if the student is struggling with anything and give extra help with those topics. The information about the class as a collective helps the teacher to structure lessons accordingly as they clearly know what topics need to be revised, especially with exams like the Leaving Cert. and Junior Cert.

Other benefits of CAL are being able to have accurate and up to date information especially for courses or subjects where information is always being updated like in medical school. In medical studies research is constantly being done and published to allow for the most accurate and up to date information as well as the study and discovery of rare or new diseased, ones such as Covid-19. New procedures or methods are also being researched and it is important that medical staff is always aware of them. Having the internet helps these studies to be seen around the world. New technology is also created to allow for the simulation of procedures such as surgeries and childbirth etc. thought it can still be quite expensive for hospitals or universities to purchase these machines. Julie J. McGowan, Eta S. Berner have published a writing about the concept of computers in medical education, “Today, the uses of computers in medical education encompass the ideas of the past, but also extend the domain to incorporate the teaching of medical informatics; use of computers in problem-based learning and/or evidence-based medicine; distance learning technologies; and the use of computers to facilitate patient education and shared medical decision-making. Also included is the use of computers in support of the medical education enterprise, for example, curriculum management support systems and computerized assessment tools.” (Julie J. McGowan, 2002)

It is not only a benefit in medical school but also in courses like engineering and history or geography. In today’s day we have programs that can simulate volcano eruptions, tsunamis or earthquake. This can help to not only to teach students the effects they have on our buildings and environment. Computers also help in the engineering aspect of teaching as they can take in values for building bridges and building and see if they can withstand heavy traffic, winds or the mentioned above environmental catastrophes.

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