The Editor

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Re: Free laptops for schools scheme.

Dear Editor,

There has been a lot of controversy in the news lately towards every child from a low income family aged seven to fourteen in the U.K receiving a free laptop.

I am writing to inform you why this will be a good idea. I personally believe this scheme will be beneficial to most that use it as it can, “help bridge the achievement gap between rich and poor pupils.” According to the, ‘Free laptop scheme is rolled out’ article.

Regarding the cost of the scheme, we know this will be expensive as we are aware that the Welsh Government stopped pursuing this scheme when Labour gained power as they thought this scheme was not cost effective. This equates to an average of £700 per laptop, says the ‘Welsh Government abandons free laptops for children’ article. There are many reliable stockists which can support the demand for all of these laptops at a much lower cost. Although this will still be quite a costly scheme but can you really put a price on our future generation’s education? No, is the right answer. We cannot let a select few students who don’t have the financial support to get left behind in this technological revolution. There are many benefits to having a laptop accessible at home. This is stated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies “having a laptop at home could lead to a two grade improvement in one subject at GCSE.” This supports my idea as we cannot let these students drop a whole two grades as a fault of not having financial support at home as these are the grades which will dictate the future of these students.

Think of how the students could access many learning aids online which brings us back to the two grade improvement at GCSE, they could search for different subject material which they might not understand or might have missed in class that day. They could also complete the online homework which most teachers seem to set nowadays.

As well as all of this, some students will use these laptops for the wrong reasons. In the source “More students need a laptop computer for the classroom.” Knap wrote.” Not ALL students have this stuff blocked. My younger brother who is 17 and a junior post several times a day to his Facebook … From the school computers … when he is supposed to be doing classwork. The teachers do not need MORE distractions than they already have.” This quote backs up my statement as some students will just go on Facebook, YouTube and other sites which they should not go on, this could distract them from doing their studying. Although those who do not do their work will not do their work, with or without a laptop. While in the same article “ Sophlady wrote: Computers used in education block social networking sites and games. They are loaded with educational software, not WoW or MP3 downloads.” So is why I think you should start giving these laptops to the students with the highest scores first and work their way down to the less achievers. This will help to minimise the risk of distraction at first.

This will not only help students but also their families. As their family members will be able to access the internet to help their children with homework. They might also check their children’s school records which many schools are doing online.

“Students without laptops get the same curriculum, says Walled Lake Superintendent William Hamilton. Students in the program, however, benefit from the skills they gain.” This supports my idea as this will improve a student’s skills at ICT which is very important in this day and age. So in conclusion I believe every child should get a free laptop.