

FROM POLICY TO PRODUCTIVITY... WHAT ARE THE POLICY MAKING CATALYSTS?

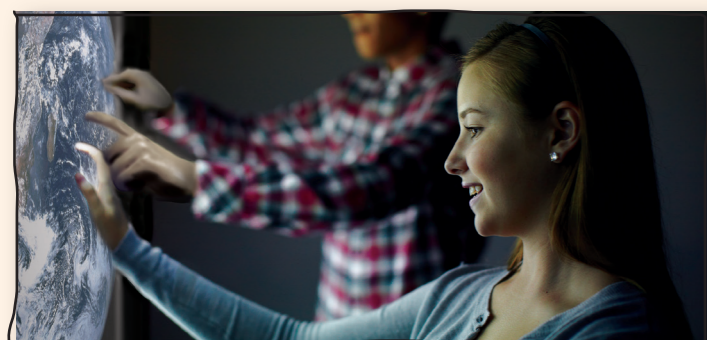


By Jim Wynn, Chief Education Officer, Promethean

Education is set to change more in the next 10 years than it has in the last two thousand. While a critical component and catalyst for this change is the capacity of technology which is unlocking human potential, we are also seeing three major policy-making catalysts emerge which are set to further drive unprecedented education change in the coming decade...

Measurement: Data Driven Decision Making in Education

Whilst reporting, performance and league tables have long been a feature of education systems worldwide, in more recent times there has been a distinct shift towards treating education like a business. The focus might not be on profit and loss or accountability to shareholders – but it is about performance, delivering the best possible education to students and deploying resources where they can be used to best effect.



As in business, the most effective way to monitor and influence performance is by making decisions based on management intelligence, which is only possible when accurate information is available. From a school perspective, accurate information comes from the collection of data, which is then used to drive student achievement through feedback.

Reach: Enabling access to the learning you need, when you need it

In simple terms, this policy driver ensures that education reaches everyone. In the Western world and more developed countries, this means reaching every student in a classroom and specifically addressing their individual learning needs. For developing countries, where some 57 million children still do not receive a full primary education, 'reach' is more about improving the productivity of the education system so that it is capable of reaching every citizen.



Enterprise: Bringing relevance to learning

Enterprise in the context of education and change manifests itself in one of two ways: firstly by enabling learning to be an integral part of our lives from school to employment as a continuum; secondly, encouraging learners to act more independently and be enterprising in their learning.

In the purest sense of the word, these ideas encapsulate the need to develop enterprising citizens and to foster a culture of entrepreneurialism which ultimately helps to drive economic growth and build social cohesion.



Given technology's ability to unlock human potential, it is the key driver behind the education revolution we are about to experience – so it comes as no surprise that technology underpins and has an integral part to play with these policy making catalysts. Whether it is the collection of data, student feedback, personalisation or collaboration – there are a wealth of solutions which equip both teacher and student with the necessary tools to translate policy making into productive learning environments.

Advertorial Feature

Moreover, not only does technology need to be matched to teaching style, it must support different learning modalities, whether whole class, group (collaborative) or personalised learning. Teacher effectiveness is also best supported when solutions can be integrated, especially when we are in a period where front-of-class instruction is fast merging with one-to-one computing.



There is no doubt that one-to-one computing will become more pervasive as students demand a more personalised learning experience, but this must be implemented as part of a whole class solution to prevent isolation – which comes back to the development of productive environments underpinned by education strategy.

In doing so, learning productivity and teacher productivity will be maximised, ultimately unlocking student achievement through motivation and feedback.



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