Touch Typing at Stony Dean School

At Stony Dean School we have recognized that touch-typing is a valuable life skill that helps improve students confidence and ability when accessing programs and software.  It’s an essential skill and needs to be imbedded into practice across KS3-4 in ICT lessons. Many students have fine motor difficulties which impact on the development and speed of handwriting and/or the Occupational Therapist may recommend touch typing as an alternative method of recording work for individual pupils. As part of the specialist provision at Stony Dean we set up our young people to be independent. They have to set themselves up to use the software and ensure that they are sat correctly with headphones.

We currently us a piece of software called BBC dance mat typing.   Children can work through the lessons at their own pace and then gradually levels which are not only fun but reinforced all the keys they had just learnt. The keys and finger placements are easily taught. The teacher will closely monitor the students to ensure that they are touch typing and correct students as and when necessary. This will ensure that they really do learn to touch-type. As students’ progress they will move onto <http://sense-lang.org/typing/> to consolidate the lessons their previous lessons learnt

Touch typing will be delivered in scheduled ICT lessons at the start of every half term to ensure that the skills are being taught correctly and measurements can be made on students’ progress. Touch typing will also be reinforced in the Getting on at Learning (GOAL) sessions that will take place after tutor time. If the Occupational Therapist has recommended touch typing, she will give advice to staff, set targets if appropriate, and track students’ progress.

Computers are a huge part of a child’s life, at home and in school.  Students need to feel comfortable and at ease with inputting information and accessing internet based services. Gaining accurate keyboard skills is a crucial part of learning and development of skills for work and life. (as they grow and mature into the 6th Form College).

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