

## ALPHASMART CASE STUDY

### ENCOURAGING RELUCTANT WRITERS

Putting pen to paper seems to switch off a vast percentage of my writers, but as soon as I flashed a Neo in the classroom their eyes lit up. Since then, every lesson is a virtual battleground over whose turn it is to use these amazingly simple and accessible keyboards.

I have the notorious Set 3 for English, with whom I somehow have to achieve those elusive level 4s for English, but now that I have my Neos the writing, particularly with the boys, has improved dramatically.

Most lessons, before the regular duels as to who can use the Neos today, I ask the pupils why they are so popular. Comments have included:

- "The Neos really help me with my writing, Miss."
- "I find they help me with my spelling."
- "It means my presentation is neater."
- "I just really like them, especially the big text, and they are so much simpler than any other keyboard, less confusing and no fuss when it comes to saving and printing."

Like every general subject teacher on the planet I am rushed off my feet, but the Neos are so easy to use. There is no plugging into the mains, and no need to remind pupils to save their work. All they have to do is grab their treasured Neo and go off to their desks. Whether it is a history essay on Maiden Castle, or a geography essay, these Neos have been a fantastic aid in encouraging my reluctant writers.

The next step is to take them with us on our impending Geography Field Trip. No more chasing scrappy, soggy notes – the Neos will fit easily into a rucksack and their robustness will cope well with my hurly burly pupils.

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