

AI and Its Effects on Education

Since AI first became popular in late 2022 to early 2023, it has become a major aspect in our everyday lives (whether you agree or not). It has been used for things such as art, recommendation services, and virtual assistants to crucial subjects such as banking, navigation, and healthcare. As it has been adopted more, it has made its way into education for things such as online homework and lesson planning. But is this a good idea to bring in or is it the impending downfall for our schools?



Students And Their Use Of AI:

Students use AI for things in both good and bad regards to education. In multiple reports, children aged 8 - 17, are using artificial intelligence to plagiarise their school work through CHATGPT, Gauth, Gemini, Dora AI and many other websites and homework apps such as Seneca, Bandlab, Kahoot, Quizlet and Blooket. This can be seen as both a positive and negative. While students have used it to cheat on online homework, these tools can be helpful to assist with understanding new topics. Having this assistance is good but it should not be used to help students fabricate their homework answers.

We asked three students what their opinions on AI usage were. The first gave us a brief response and described AI as "stupid". The second student agreed that AI was bad but for a different reason. They thought it was bad for the environment as it was using our water and therefore could lead to "the world dying out".

The final student opposed this. They believe that AI is a good thing, but that we found out about it too early. As a result, people are developing it too quickly and it's what's causing all the issues. To put this into context, they think we should "only be up to the development of the iPhone 2 at this moment in time".

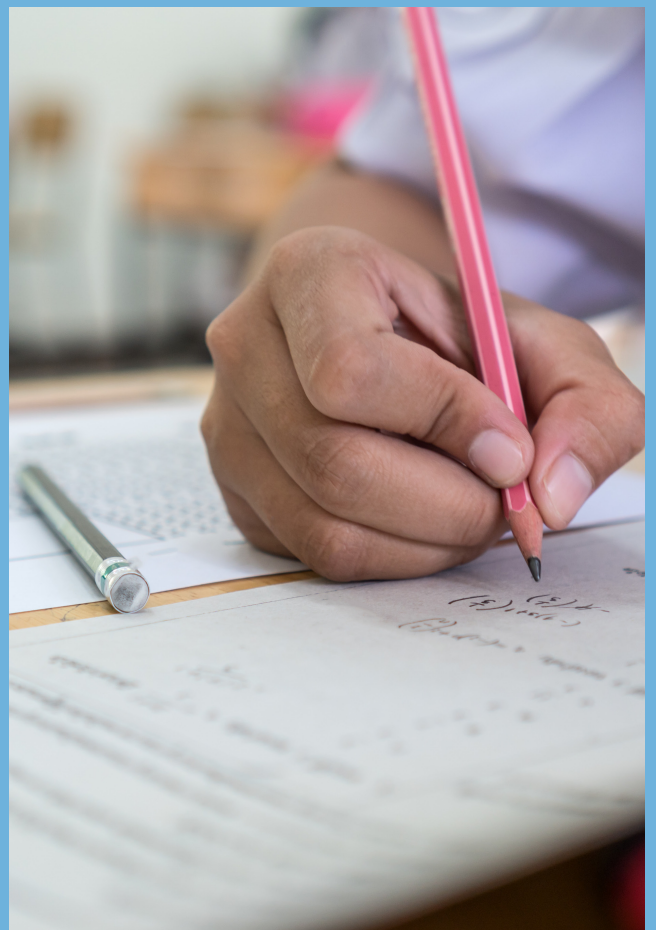
Students Cheat With AI. Why?

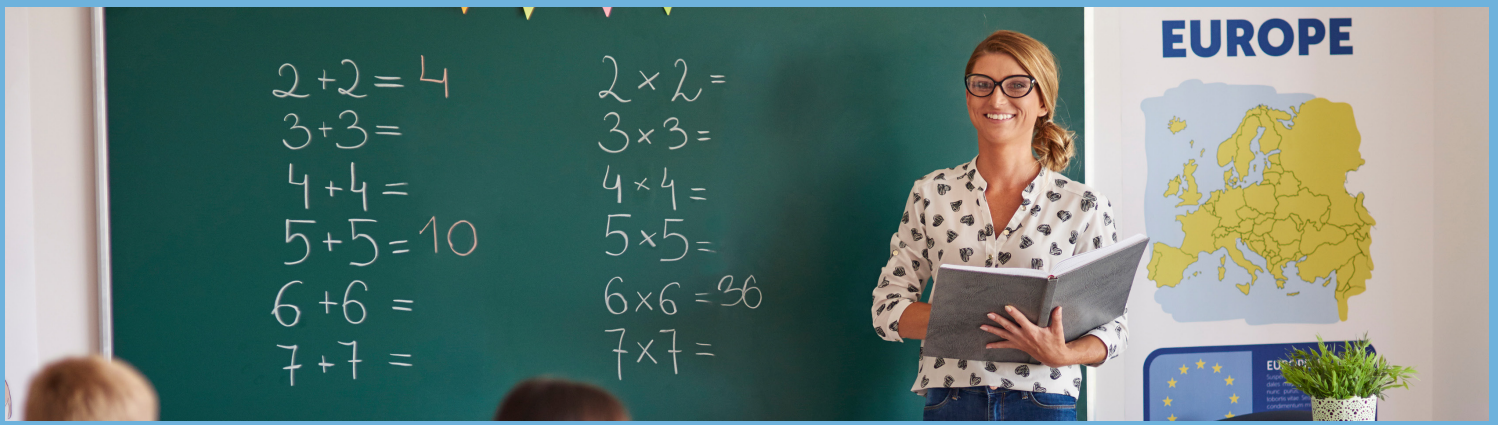
More than 54% of teens say they use AI to help with school work. It is unbeknownst to us how many students at our school use it as some may not want to admit to this.

According to another study, 16 - 21% of students use it as an easy replacement for their own work, 28% use it to improve their work without outright copying and pasting the AI's answers. 24% use AI daily and two thirds consider using it for school work.

However, it could be argued that the use of AI is making students more incompetent and gets rid of the ability to think for themselves.

We asked two students who do not use AI if they had ever seen students use AI - they both told us they had seen many of their peers use it, particularly for maths. They've also seen it been used for ICT.



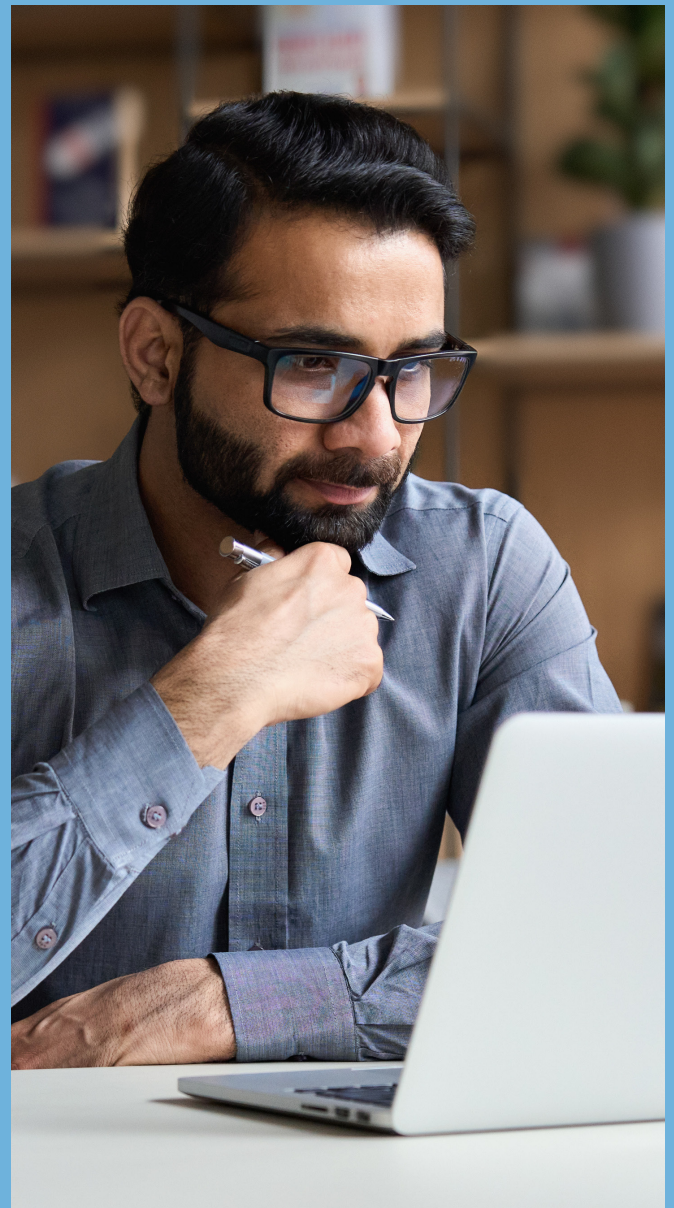


Teachers And AI:

New lesson plans... Something that many teachers sometimes dread. With generative AI, they can now make planning easier, helping to save time for marking and other tasks. They can also use AI to evaluate assessments and to make revision resources for Y10 and Y11 students.

We interviewed our very own art teachers on their opinions. When asked how they use AI, they told us how they use it to generate new ideas, introduce new artists and quickly finish things that don't require subject-specific knowledge and/or expert skills.

We also asked their thoughts on AI usage in education in general. They thought it was a very useful tool, particularly for revision. However, students need to be taught how to use it appropriately before it can be used as a good aid. They also thought that recently, AI has been used to much in everything in general that it would be "daft" not to understand how to use it for appropriate things.



So, Is AI All It's Cracked Up To Be... Or Is It Ruining Our Intelligence?

In our humble conclusion Artificial Intelligence is a mixed bag when it comes to do educational morals and can be seen as either positive or extremely negative.

From the perspective of students like us, plagiarising homework and assignments on technology in lessons is seriously not a brilliant or ethical idea whatsoever and some would say that it should be banned in schools, never to be used ever again. However using it to assist in learning can be a good way to utilise the tools.

Also, from a teacher's perspective, it can be abundantly relieving and can make their planning and marketing work much simpler. It takes off the pressure of planning entire lessons by helping them complete it in seconds.

Above all, AI has both its advantages and disadvantages for both students and teachers but as long as it is used appropriately it does have its place in society.



Thank you for reading, we hope this has been helpful and insightful for you.

Written By...
Olivia, Bentley, Victoria



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