

Technology: The good and the bad of its effects on education

AI Acknowledgement: I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work.

I confirm that I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Introduction: This source was handpicked by me, and the study was conducted by the School of Barcelona whom are an international school that adapt the UK school curriculum making them an excellent choice as they're familiar with how the system works in the UK, finding the source did require some difficulty as due to variety of studies done on this particular topic it can get a lost in a sea of other dozen articles and I checked that the study was recently conducted at least a maximum of 3+ years ago as technology keeps on adapting and evolving so we want to make sure our info is correct or up to date.

Social media is one of the most popular forms of communication that we have today and around 5.6 billion people around the globe currently use it as reported by Statista. It allows us to connect with people from all around the world with different backgrounds, ethnicities and introduce us to beneficial content that can help expand our knowledge, despite all of this it does come with variable drawbacks especially when it comes to education.

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So first we need to know what advantages social media can offer for students that study full time and the [School of Barcelona](#) list a few great examples such as:

- **“Facilitating collaborative learning:** Technology can help students to collaborate to complete projects together through apps like teams, Moodle etc. in real time and unlike classrooms where students often must travel to and is usually static these apps can help students access from anywhere and at any time they choose.
- **“Encouraging creativity and critical thinking:** Technology gives students a chance to implement critical thinking into their studies as no longer does someone need to go a long way to the library for a book or article for a particular topic instead it can all be looked up with a keyboard and a screen, thus it can give students more resources to formulate an well thought out conclusion on their topic via analysis of data, statistics etc.

- **“Accessing a wealth of resources:** one of the most beneficial advantages is the amount of access we have is to the resources on the internet with barely any effort, and with barely any manual input, with a huge amount of reliable and trusted sources that can be accessed at any time

This source shows us that social media can give students a great multitude of benefits and assist them in their studies, the article gives an example of google classroom, Edu roam and tutors can also benefit and help to make teaching more efficient from apps such as WordPress, they can also collab with the students via office 365, Moodle zoom and other available apps

Challenges students face when using technology for education

Despite all the various benefit that social media and technology can give to help make education easier, it can come with its drawbacks of which are listed below:

1. Something which would be obvious when it comes to social media is that it can be a constant distraction, as the school of Barcelona reports: “one of the main problems is distraction. Constant notifications and the temptation to check the feed can affect concentration, reducing productivity.” ([School of Barcelona, September 23, 2024](#))
2. Privacy concerns: privacy can be a concern especially when your online data can easily be mined and sold to third parties or your info can be used it impersonate you, or it can be used to conduct acts like cyberbullying among many other things, it’s important to teach students how to protect themselves and their info when being online.
([School of Barcelona, September 23, 2024](#))
3. Communication can be “limited” in a sense that it’s very superficial and not comparable to real life interactions, thus sometimes the students may not be present at their laptop or have connection issues all of which can make communication difficult especially for handy tasks like group work which needs constant communication from all sides and they lack the emotional depth. ([School of Barcelona, September 23, 2024](#))
4. While social media has a plethora amount of information, this info can contain false information or exaggerated data which can affect the perception of the student to their chosen topic as data is erroneous and may even result in incorrect answers ([School of Barcelona, September 23, 2024](#))

How students can make the most of social media in education:

Creating online study groups: students can make groups on Insta, WhatsApp, discord and many others to discuss the topic and project in hand, they can assist each other, give each other information that can assist them in their studies.

Use online blogs: tutors can present students blogs or articles that students can study to help support their topic of choice and make an informed opinion

Webinars and live classes: webinars and live classes can encourage more dynamic between students and friendly competition with each other; they can also be recorded so students can go back to check up on anything they missed.

Conclusion:

In Conclusion: technology can be adapted to assist students in their academic endeavors, it can be great for finding resources that can help students make an informed decision with their chosen topic, although there are valid concerns such as privacy, the risk of incorrect information or otherwise biased information, it's important students always double check, browse safely and use it correctly, It's proven students can adapt to technology and it's easy to use and tutors can also use technology to their benefit to assist students, assign groups and encourage communication with the students and peers among each other.