E-Learning. Pros and Cons

Οι απόψεις μαθητών και μαθητριών της Α τάξης σχετικά με τα πλεονεκτήματα και μειονεκτήματα της εξ αποστάσεως εκπαίδευσης, μετά την προσωπική εμπειρία τους στην περίοδο του αποκλεισμού λόγω της πανδημίας όπως αποτυπώθηκαν σε Forum Συζητήσεων στην ψηφιακή τάξη eclass.sch.gr.

Καθηγήτρια. Ε. Αναγνωστάκη

As far as I am concerned, I believe that e-learning has both benefits and drawbacks which should be taken into consideration. To begin with, this new way of learning has many benefits. Students learn through a variety of ways. For instance, students now use new methods of communicating with their teachers like using emails or doing via chat video. This is really good because students may find the lessons more interesting than they used to. Furthermore, this way of learning is very flexible and convenient as students now depend on themselves and can train themselves whenever they want , even at weeks. The other side of the coin is that e-learning has also some drawbacks. The most important is that not all students have access to the Internet as a result they cannot attend these online classes. What is more, some students lose the appetite of learning due to the distance. Moreover, today's students don't have enough self-organizational skills. This means that they don't have skills of managing the time that is given to them in order to finish their assignments.*ΑμάνταΑσλανάι Α1*

I believe that e-learning is a good experience because we have the chance to use tools that we've never used before as a result to make us adjustable at new things.Also e-learning content can be in sections,to fit around your busy life.Instead of a traditional classroom now you have to use a computer to contact with your teacher and this motivates students to become experts at this sector.And being able to share your learning process with other students in similar situation is very refreshing. But as we know online courses have and cons.Some of them arepeople that don't have enough self-organizational skills may find it difficult to adjust because it's not the same as in a traditional classroom,if you are quite a sociable person online learning can be challenging for you and lastly but not least not all of us can afford to buy advanced devices as a result students can't find ways to contact with their teachers. *ΓκαμπριέλαΓιαούπη, Α1*

My opinion about e-learning from my experience so far is really positive. E-learning has both advantages and disadvantages that should be taken into account. To start with, e-learning gives the chance to students to learn through a variety of ways, including web cams, CD/DVDs, animation and virtual classrooms. Another important advantage is that, online courses are available round-the-clock to any student with a computer and internet access as a result to enter any time of the day. On the other side there are some disadvantages that are also significant. First of all as great as technology is it also has us at its mercy at times. Online students with computer or internet problems will be unable to complete their assignments or exams as required, as a result to be a problem. Last but not least, students have limited interaction with instructors and may have to wait for hours for reply to questions and in that way they delay to apply to the homework which teacher gives them. To sum up, my opinion is that e-learning is very helpful and i think that advantages outweigh the disadvantages.*Χαρούλα Ίσαρη, Α1*

To begin with, e-learning as an experience came to our life unexpectedly. It is a new method of learning which seems quite interesting.

I believe it is too soon to have an overall opinion about this subject, however I like the fact that I can keep in touch with my classmates and teachers. Furthermore, education can be a lot easier than we expected. For example, students can watch videos and study with interactive books to understand the lesson better. In my opinion, it is more convenient too, since there is flexibility regarding the individual schedule. During this hard time, e-learning makes me feel that school life has not ended. It has just changed for a while.

On the other hand, it is difficult for me to adjust to all these new things that appear on my computer screen. Sometimes, I have trouble carrying out school tasks using the pc. Moreover, stable internet connection is needed otherwise poor communication among teachers and students is expected. What I mean is that no face-to-face interaction with peers and teachers may cause misunderstandings. *Αλεξάνδρα Παππά, Α3*

It is widely known that due to Covid-19 the way lessons are taught has radically altered.As is the case,however,with all innovations,there are both benefits and drawbacks which should be taken into account.

On the positive side,there are several advantages that ensue from the use of online classes.First and foremost,a number of pupils have the chance to regulate their own timetable and acquire skills in being well-ordered and efficient,as many students struggle in it.So,they surely have plenty of time to study and prepare their assignments,even on weekdays and are self-paced to read up on,which means that they are the ones who decides when and how much to study.Furthermore,another advantage related to distance learning programs is that it gives more options for students with either limited or increased capabilities to improve or get better grades,as the work we have to complete is mainly revision exercises.Finally,a major asset is that we can acquaint with the use of computers which is expanding more and more in modern societies.

On the negative side,it is doubtless that there are some drawbacks to distance education.To begin with,social isolation deteriorates things because students have no interaction with their fellow-students and teachers face-to-face so they can not cooperate or create something together.Secondly,the use of technology is prerequisite and can be very costly.This feedback is not offered and many students cannot afford it.In addition,students need to be disciplined and adhere to studying programs,however there is no such a will and motivation.

Taking the aforementioned points into consideration,it is obvious that distance lessons have induced both positive and negative changes in our way of learning.Nevertheless,it should be pointed out that it is strictly up to us to use this method in moderation and strike a happy medium rather than go to extremes.*ΜελίναΛίκο, Α2*

In my opinion, e-learning is a new experience for the students, which has both benefits and drawbacks. On the one hand, having lessons within phones, tablets and laptops is a new way of learning which students have not experienced so far. In this way students can study from their home without transportation or using writing materials. Also, most of the students agree that e-learning is more entertaining than lessons at school, due to the fact that they can work with many different ways instead of just exercises or keeping notes. On the other hand, e-learning has also some drawbacks. Firstly, not all the students have the ability of using the technology. Some of them do not have the requirements for e-learning. For example, students may not have high-speed internet connection or they may not even have technological devices like computers or tablets. Moreover, students do not have the motivation from a teacher to do their homework. Some students in school have no interest in learning but usually teachers help them unlike in e-learning classes students may not take part. *Έντζιλάμε, A3*

Nowadays, unfortunately, a new virus has appeared (Covid 19), which has affected our country. People are not allowed to be on the streets for no reason. Schools are closed due to the virus. Students can now take lessons through e-learning. In my opinion e-learning is a new experience. I think that it is a very effective way of learning. E-learning has of course advantages and disadvantages. First of all e-learning saves us time. Furthermore, online students learn through a variety of ways, such as Web cams,CDs/DVDs and virtual classrooms. It is also an undeniable fact that ,through e-learning, students acquire skills in computer science. On the other hand, e-learning can cause a feeling of isolation. In addition, some children may not have computers or they may have old computers and may not be able to participate in this way of education. To sum up, online lessons have both advantages and disadvantages. When the virus will cease to exist then students should return to school.
Αριστείδης Μελίδης, A2

Coronavirus has brought about a lot of changes in the world, one of them being e-learning. It is my belief that e-learning is currently the best way for students to revise what they have learnt throughout the school year. However, this doesn't mean that it doesn't have flaws. The advantages of e-learning are the following:

 Firstly, students have the opportunity to combine technology with learning, thus making the experience somewhat more enjoyable. Secondly, they can study at their own pace. For example, if a course seems more challenging than the others, they can take their time and pay more attention to that course.

As it is mentioned previously however, there are disadvantages too. One of them is the fact that some students, if not most, will think of this period as a resting time and they will simply choose to either completely ignore their responsibilities regarding e-learning (though I doubt it) or they will slightly neglect their duties as students and will do some courses while avoiding others. The other major disadvantage is how students will have to wait for several hours to get an answer to any questions they might have, resulting in losing their train of thought and not being able to work efficiently. There is also the possibility of facing problems with Internet connection and the result being the same, but this doesn't appear to be as realistic.*Παύλος Λάμπρου, A2*

We're currently facing a very difficult situation with the COVID-19 pandemic going on, in which e-learning appears to be the only solution when it comes to education. In order to examine this system's pros and cons we'll have to carefully remove from the picture the extra problems the pandemic creates. The reason this is pointed out is that many people seem to blame online classes for depriving students of socializing, without realising that in a healthy, not quarantined environment, the students are able to come in contact out of school too. There is also another argument made against e-learning which, in my opinion, is not valid and that is the difficulty of adapting to it. The reason I disagree with this point is that if we accept it as valid, then we should never accept any change.

 Unfortunately though, online learning does have some actual drawbacks and these are: 1. Possible inaccessibility - not everyone can have access to a device with internet connection. 2. The freedom this system gives cannot be properly controlled by most students, who are most likely to struggle to manage their studying and end up not devoting enough time to it. 3. Difficulty in communication between the teachers and the students - even though technology offers a wide variety of ways to communicate, it is really hard for a teacher to be able to keep up with every student and be able to help everyone individually in time. 4. Difficulty in testing the students' progress - the current system relies on written exams to check on students' progress, but in an online environment that's not viable.

 So far, only negatives were presented, but we cannot ignore the benefits this method could have. Firstly, the amount of media that teachers could have at their disposal is huge, helping them enhance their lessons, potentially helping students understand more and making them more interested in the topics taught. Besides, this system also offers flexibility in one's learning pace, thus giving more options for students with either limited or increased capabilities.Lastly, an online education system would be a good way to make more people familiarise with the use of technology, which is spreading more and more in all of modern society's sectors.

To sum up, online learning is as most things, just a tool. A tool which -if used responsibly (by students and teachers alike), in a healthy society with a well-established reliable technological foundation- could revolutionize education, but which also, if used irresponsibly in an environment that is not ready to adapt, could ruin education, for a certain amount of time at least.*ΣτέλιοςΠετράκοςΑ3*

I agree with the aforementioned opinion on the fact that it is, indeed, difficult to communicate via the technological means we have been offered. A lesson, in my opinion, is conducted more smoothly when the students and the teachers are present because "messages" (this is the best word I could think of, I apologize) are easily conveyed to students through experiential learning. Even if a video call between the teacher and their students is conducted, which is the key point of distance learning, it'll be just not as effective as the methods of proximate learning.

I disagree with you on the matter of exams, as I think in an online education system they should be abolished. The exam-centric character of education is leading to the deterioration of knowledge, and if we are to revolutionize education, as mentioned, it is necessary to leave this foul and harmful means of testing progress behind us.*Κατερίνα Γιαννοπούλου, Α1*