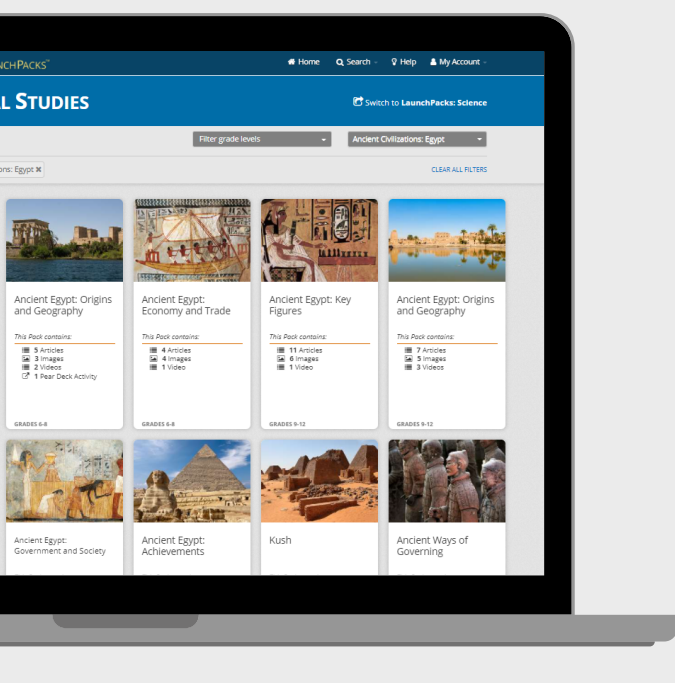




SHIRELANDS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

BOOSTING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH MULTIMODAL LEARNING



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As teachers, we know that technology offers vast learning opportunities for children of all ages. However, it is also important that teachers have faith in the quality of online materials we are providing our students. This way, we can be confident that the technology is not only boosting engagement, but also helping students learn while consolidating our own subject knowledge.

The majority of school-age children communicate regularly through various forms of social media, meaning that online learning platforms feel familiar and relevant to them. Indeed, we have noticed how readily they have been able to integrate their learning.

The platform also gives learners a new form of independence. Many students relish the opportunity to take control of their own learning, and it's clear that our students have also done this. The expansive nature of the internet means that young people often face uncertainty when tasked with independent learning, it is important that online learning resources provide them with the assurance of the validity of all the information they are taking in.

Understanding what our students need and wanting to elevate teaching and learning provision, Shireland Collegiate Academy partnered with Encyclopaedia Britannica to create LaunchPacks, a multi-modal learning platform with topics covered across the humanities, social sciences and sciences.

Student engagement

Most teachers recognise the benefits of synthesising traditional classroom learning with technology.



The screenshot shows the Britannica LaunchPacks interface. At the top, the header includes the Britannica logo, 'LAUNCHPACKS™', and navigation links: Home, Search, Notifications, Help, and Miss Mills. Below the header, a blue banner displays the title 'Germany: The Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, 1929-1934' and 'KEY STAGE 4'. A circular profile picture of a group of people is on the left. Below the banner, there are tabs for 'LaunchPack', 'Customise', and 'Activities'. The 'LaunchPack' tab is active, showing a grid of resources. On the left, there is a 'SHARE THIS PACK' section with a purple envelope icon and a 'Share Pack' button. The main grid contains several resource cards: a 'LEARNING RESOURCE' card titled 'Resource Route' with a description 'Start by reviewing the route through the resources in this pack.'; a 'VIDEO' card titled 'Great Depression' with a video player showing a man's face; an 'ARTICLE' card titled 'Reichstag' with a description of the building and an 'Article Reading Level' indicator showing levels 2 and 3; another 'ARTICLE' card titled 'Great Depression' with a description of the economic downturn; and a 'Britannica Note' card with a yellow background and text 'Read the section 'What Happened' to understand how the Great Depression affected the United States and other nations.'

Independent learning is a vital skill for all our students as they begin their journeys to further education and beyond. We have found that LaunchPacks enables such independent learning by encouraging enquiry and debate, in the perimeters of accessible, factual knowledge.

Opportunity for students of all abilities

It's vital that technology helps all students, not just those who are already confident in their subject area. The levelling system enabled by LaunchPacks means that all students can return to topics they want to improve, if they feel like they are behind. As teachers, we know that some students feel apprehensive of raising concerns out loud or mentioning that they feel behind, and so the platform allows them to solidify their understanding independently, in a way they feel comfortable with. On the other hand, students who want to delve deeper into a subject are given the resources and freedom to do so.

We have found that by utilising a digital system that allows for individualised learning, we have facilitated greater engagement across abilities, as it provides a reliable foundation for those seeking more knowledge.

So, this ability to go back and revise certain topics, combined with the attractiveness of the platform for young learners, means that students feel empowered to take their learning into their own hands. The fact that we can change, add, remove and schedule content to meet teacher and learner requirements means that teachers are given flexibility in planning lessons. For example, some topics might need more tailoring depending on the levels of students in the class, and it accommodates for these customisable changes to be made.

