

Hitachi and Portuguese schools helps to solve maths equation



The StarBoard
Maths Suite



Even teachers have changed their habits

Hitachi Software Engineering leads Portugal's interactive whiteboard market, an achievement almost outdone by the success of its maths software.

A commitment to the education market has helped Hitachi Software Engineering lead Portugal's interactive whiteboard market. But this success has almost been outdone by the effect of the company's software on the local maths curriculum.

Helder Ribeiro, from Hitachi's Portuguese distributor - Areal Editores, explains: "Our only market is education, which explains our success. However, when we analysed the Premium Software package, we realised teachers could only benefit by adding the maths suite, too."

"Areal Editores set up a marketing promotion, practically giving away the Maths Software Package with the interactive whiteboards. "The new product was very well received by the enthusiastic and innovative maths community nationwide," says Helder. "We should also praise the Portuguese Education Ministry."

A national 'Action Plan Towards Maths Teaching' is being implemented, supplying most of the schools that submit a three-year improvement plan with the necessary resources including Hitachi's maths suite. So, what difference has the suite made?

The Public School

"Now, teachers prepare, discuss and train together. It's very enriching."

When teachers at public school Escola E. B. 2,3/S de Penalva do Castelo wanted a break from routine 'chalk-and-talk' teaching, they had to give 24 hours' notice to use one of the school's computer rooms, or request a video projector. If this equipment was already booked, teachers couldn't use technology in a lesson.

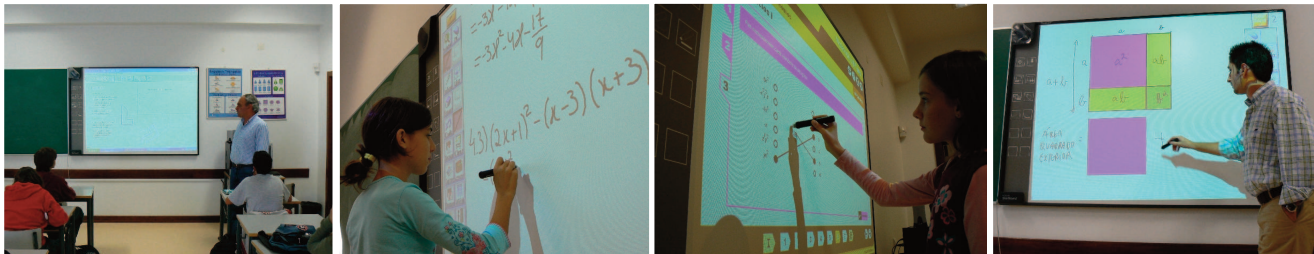
In a low-income, agricultural area, the school needed fresh impetus to capture hearts and minds.

Maths teacher Cláudia Costa de Albuquerque Pinto was one of the teachers who helped drive changes. Cláudia says: "We wanted to integrate the technology into the curriculum. To achieve this, it had to be permanently inside the classroom. After the Hitachi demonstration, we were convinced of the benefits."

Escola E. B. 2,3/S de Penalva do

Now, teachers prepare, discuss and train together

HITACHI
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Castelo has three interactive whiteboards and one maths board for the maths class room. Maths pupils now regularly use Cabri Geometry II Plus as well as the Mult-e-Maths toolboxes. Pupils and teachers draw perfect circles, set points, draw lines and find equations with no effort, as well as bringing up stored work with an interactive pen. Having the Internet on tap has also created dynamism and motivation.

Even teachers have changed their habits. Says Cláudia, "Teachers now meet periodically to prepare classes and materials together, discuss experiences and methods, and train. It has been very enriching and has contributed to the wider success of the teaching learning process."

The Private School

"Visualising geometry concepts was a problem that sometimes could not be overcome."

Maths classes at Externato João Alberto Faria (EJAF), a school about 35 kms from Lisbon, were not as interesting as they could be, with traditional chalkboards and little interactivity. And, says maths teacher José Melícias, "Visualising

geometry concepts was a problem that sometimes could not be overcome."

José had heard about Hitachi's interactive whiteboards from Areal Editores and set up a demonstration. Impressed by the scope of the presentations, the interactive resources and the software packages, EJAF immediately bought two maths suites and drew up a special timetable, so that almost all the classes could use the maths suite for at least one lesson a week.

Says José: "The interactive boards make lessons more attractive and the maths suite software allows a range of solutions that were unthinkable in a traditional classroom. In geometry classes, we can now make students actively interact with the concepts that we were trying to get across breaking down the traditional barriers that you get with young people."

A totally new concept

Hitachi's maths suite is a totally new concept that combines Hitachi hardware with the best resources from e-learning experts, Cambridge Hitachi, Cabri and Cambridge University Press.

For information about bringing the maths revolution into your school, contact in Portugal:

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