No Student Left offline

Fight social and educational exclusion by opening doors to digital classrooms.

Tech2Students is part of an innovative collaboration between Trinity Access (TCD) and Camara Education Ireland. The fast spread of COVID-19 resulted in the closures of schools and the opening of virtual classrooms.

The digital divide continues to be an issue affecting students nationwide. Thousands of students do not have access to a laptop at home. We want to open the doors to virtual classrooms by donating disused laptops to vulnerable communities who need them. Following the success of T2S Phase 1, when we raised over 300,000 euro and delivered over 1,000 devices to DEIS schools, we were left with a growing list of over 60 schools and organisations who desperately need digital devices for their students. In September, T2S won the prestigious Innovate Together Award from Rethink Ireland and this has allowed us to become even more ambitious with our plans. We have partnered with NUI Galway, the NUIG Access Centre, the Galway City Partnership, the Galway Chamber of Commerce and the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics. Our goal is to deliver 5,000 devices to students in need all over Ireland.

Click here to help a student

HOW DO I DONATE MY LAPTOP?
Go to techspace.ie Fill out the form. You will be contacted by the Tech2Students team. They will send you postage labels and postage instructions. Wrap and package your laptop and charger securely and affix the labels provided. Go to your local An Post office with your packaged laptop. An Post FreePost will deliver your laptop to Tech2Students.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
The Tech2Students team will restore the laptop to factory settings at their workshop and securely wipe all data from the hard drive using a certified process. A fresh operating system will be installed and they will then deliver the refurbished laptops directly to schools and organisations allowing under-represented groups to excel in their studies, whatever the next few months bring.
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?
On average after you deliver your laptop to the post office, it will have been refurbished and delivered to a deserving student within two weeks.

WHO IS GETTING THE LAPTOPS?
Devices will go to secondary school pupils and other students in disadvantaged circumstances who need this technology to continue their education. These include those in DEIS schools, in direct provision, Irish travellers and mature students from lower-income socio-economic areas. Principals, teachers and youth workers from anywhere in the country are free to apply on behalf of the students who need them.

FACTS

- Progression rates to further and higher education for students in DEIS schools are traditionally significantly lower than non-DEIS. For example students from the most affluent parts of Dublin are up to 14 times more likely to progress to university than their counterparts from some schools in the city’s most disadvantaged areas.
- School closures during Covid19 appear to have particularly affected learning, wellbeing, motivation and engagement of Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students, with more severe impacts being reported among DEIS schools.
- Students from rural areas also have less access to remote learning resources.
- 57% of students outside of cities are experiencing online learning difficulties due to the digital divide.
- Risks of learning regression among students from low progression areas is now a serious concern.
- Teachers reported frustration at not being able to protect vulnerable students as they normally would in a classroom setting.
- Teachers who reported a lack of a dedicated IT infrastructure were more likely to report a low engagement among their students.
- 5th Year students have been particularly affected, having lost substantial class time to complete the Leaving Certificate curriculum.

FAQ

My laptop is really old. Can I still donate it?
We are looking for old devices but they do need to be usable. For this reason we are accepting devices which were manufactured in 2015 onwards.
My laptop isn’t working / can’t connect to the internet / is missing it’s charger: Can I still donate it?
Sorry, but the device should be functioning as we do not have the capacity to do any hardware repairs. You can see the specification of devices we can refurbish here.

I have personal / private documents / photos etc I want to keep from the laptop?
You should back up all files which you want to keep on a USB, external hard drive or to cloud storage (GoogleDrive, ICLOUD, Microsoft One Drive). This way you can keep your personal documents and photos and still donate your laptop. Note the disk on your device will be completely erased (reformatted in fact) before it is passed on, so all your files and information will no longer be available on the device.

Will I get my laptop back after Phase 2 is complete?
No, we are looking for people to generously donate their disused laptops to our cause. Laptops will not be returned but will remain in the possession of schools/organisations and can be used by many more students in years to come.

I’m worried about my private information.
The disk on your device will be completely erased (reformatted in fact) before it is passed on, so all your files and information will no longer be available on the device. If you wish you can pre-wipe your laptop at home (see link). Either way it will still go through the secure process at the repurposing centre.

I don’t have a spare laptop but I’d like to donate money, is that possible?
Yes! Go to techspace.ie and donate. All donations, large and small, are welcome and 100% of your donation will go towards purchasing or repurposing laptops for students.

I don’t have a device but I do have a monitor / keyboard / mouse / headphones etc I would like to donate, can I?
Our number one priority is getting devices to students but if you have equipment that would support student online learning, please email us for more information.

TECH2STUDENTS
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