

What do you like?

What do the kids in Year 9 at school like doing in their free time?

Sean likes playing online games. He competes with other players and needs fast reactions to come out on top! He always plays when he gets home from school and he's pretty good at gaming now. He says he feels really good when he wins! He also watches videos online. Does he watch TV in the evenings, too? No, he doesn't. He enjoys watching videos about a variety of topics online. TV is all the same. He wants to make his own videos and upload them. What about? Well, gaming of course!



Elly and Jo both collect old comics. Where do they get them? They usually go to second-hand bookshops and markets at the weekend. Elly likes these 'treasure hunts' a lot. They also look online. People send them comics from all over the world. Do Elly and Jo read all these comics? Of course they do! Jo thinks that hobbies are important because they help you find out what you like doing as well. In fact, she wants to be a comic book artist and draw her own comics.



19 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does Sean play online games?
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- 2 How does he feel when he wins?
.....
- 3 What videos does he watch?
.....
- 4 Where do Elly and Jo find comics?
.....
- 5 Why are hobbies important in Jo's opinion?
.....

20 **SPEAK** Which hobbies in the text do you like? Why?

15 Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you enjoy playing computer games? What's your favourite game?
- 2 Do you play games in your lessons?

A report by
BEN ACTON

Learning by Playing: Games in the Classroom



Today I'm visiting 'Quest to Learn'. It is a public secondary school in New York City with an unusual educational philosophy. Its founder, a professional game designer, thinks games are the answer to the problem of boredom! 'Learning through games helps students to connect school to the real world. It captures their interest, and makes lessons fun!' As one student says 'It feels like playing when you're actually learning.'

Educational games are at the centre of 'Quest's' curriculum. Students work together to complete 'missions'. These usually last for up to ten weeks. Students need to solve a series of real-world problems or 'quests' to complete their mission.

The students in this class are studying science. They're on a mission to save a sick patient and they're learning all about the human body.

At the end of every mission, the students present their results to their teacher and the teacher evaluates their work. There are no tests.

Students' results depend on the teacher's assessment of their performance in class.

'Quest' believes its approach helps students master critical thinking skills and learn how to think independently and find creative solutions to problems. But does it prepare students for the world of study and work after school? What do you think? ■



GLOSSARY

quests *ricerche*
master *padroneggiare*

16 **034** Listen and read the article. Decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 'Quest to learn' is a school for philosophers. T F
- 2 Many schools teach through games. T F
- 3 Students work individually on missions. T F
- 4 At 'Quest', students memorise lots of information for written tests. T F
- 5 The 'Quest' approach aims to develop students' autonomy. T F

17 **THINK** Read the article again. Then answer the questions.

- 1 What are the benefits of learning through games?
- 2 Why is the school called 'Quest to Learn'?
- 3 What do the students think about this method of learning?
- 4 What do the students do at the end of their missions?
- 5 What do students' results depend on?



Be a
volunteer!



Volunteers work for free, they don't make any money out of their work. So, why do they do it? Let's ask some of them.

A 'I help at the local animal shelter on Saturdays. I love animals and I want to work with them when I leave school,' Sam says. 'I meet a lot of different people here, and I watch the vets work with the animals. We get a lot of stray dogs and cats, and we try to find good homes for them. Sometimes we find wild animals, like foxes, too. I know I help the animals and they help me too!'

SAM PHILLIPS, Birmingham



B Mel helps out at a local school. The school has a Saturday club for children with problems at school. 'They don't really have serious problems,' says Mel.

'A lot of them don't get enough reading practice so they fall behind in class. Then they start to hate school because they don't understand the lessons. I read stories with them and they start to like school again! I enjoy it and I like the children a lot, too. I know I give something back to society in this way.'

MEL TODD, Glasgow



C 'We have an unusual hobby,' Dan says. 'We like making pictures and sculptures out of bits of metal and wood we find on the beach or in our local park. We usually help the town council clean the park and the beach. It's good because these places are clean for people and we can keep what we need. And we make amazing things!'

DAN CALWAY and
TIM BATES, Cornwall



GLOSSARY

- stray randagio
- fall behind restano indietro
- town council consiglio comunale