



SHOULD HOMEWORK BE HISTORY?

FORM: ARTICLE

AUTHOR: ABDULLAH WILLIAMS

Table of Contents

SHOULD HOMEWORK BE HISTORY?2





SHOULD HOMEWORK BE HISTORY?

The time has come; a whole new ball game of exams has landed, as tough as nails and walking a hard line to wake unsuspecting British youths from their slumber; it's a new horizon - before too long, we will be looking Finland and Shanghai in the eye and saying, 'we can read too!'

But...

There can only be one result, in my analysis – more homework, more homework, more homework... Did I mention there will be more homework?

He's had a few stabs at this exam reform thing - you know that Michael Gove guy, the Educational Secretary. Some say he's actually a mad scientist who uses students as exam guinea pigs... Who knows, but if students felt they were already weighed down enough by homework, they'd better get on their hands and knees and pray, otherwise they'll be reminded of Macbeth in more ways than one:

'Sleep no more! Shiny new GCSE's doth murder sleep – the innocent sleep.'

As old as time itself and loved by students like a soggy sandwich on a rainy day, homework has always been an unending, looping nightmare for youngsters. But now they must prepare for a different type of battle; the onslaught of a brand-spanking new 9-1 nightmare, designed to separate the wheat from the chaff, to help the cream rise to the top – a new law of the educational jungle; natural selection of the biggest brains; survival of the smartest.

But is the whole educational system actually its own worst enemy?

Let's face it; getting a completed set of homework from the current generation is like trying to draw blood from stone; getting a good set of homework is even worse; excellent homework? Forget it.

We've all seen the 9am classroom battle between teacher and pupil; it's as if the commander sent the lieutenant on a quest to find the elixir of knowledge only for him to return with a pocketful of excuses he pulled out from somewhere in the back of his feeble imagination: the result? War.

But who is really concealing a minefield of pride and self-delusion?

I have to admit, I am beginning to see it too; homework: a fish out of water; a dinosaur in the eve of its own extinction, clinging desperately to life by the tips of its talons in the face of an inexorable new dawn: the technological age is here and about to consign homework to the history books... A few generations down the line and homework may be nothing more than an atavistic memory of some ancient ancestors (that's us, by the way, 'some' future ancient ancestors) who couldn't think outside the box, like minds frozen in an archaic past.

So, there can only be two options in my opinion; resuscitate the thing (in other words reimagine it, rework it rebrand it, rethink it: just re-something it) or bury it altogether.

Love it or hate it, the youth is plugged into the technological world, riding the crest of a giant wave of wonders, while we, like fools, fight the inevitable. But why not ride it, too? Why not go with the flow?





Let's rewire our minds...

Teenagers love games, right? So, let's give them games: spell-binding educational games that use virtual reality to fire up imaginations and build real-world skills; and more virtual-to-reality games and competitions, please; let's include engineering games into the mix; how about some science? Maths and English wouldn't go amiss either; why not throw in some history? Love Facebook? Buy 20 minutes' Facebook time by answering these 10 geography quiz questions; make knowledge cool by celebrating high achievers...

Let creativity and enjoyment lead the way; infuse knowledge into students' day-to-day lives so they enjoy technology and education in a harmonious way, where learning and life are not antagonists but partners in greatness.

This is not a white flag or the towel being thrown in, but a call to explore a paradigm shift, away from the past and forward to the present.

A new world is dawning, and we can't beat it, so let's join it.

