$$F_{gal} = m_f\, g = \rho_f\, V_f\, g$$

Interactive Education

A local group of schools, consisting of a mainstream preparatory school for pupils aged 2-13 years and a specialist school for students aged 11-18 years with autism and associated learning difficulties, has always believed in combining traditional methods of teaching with the latest technology.

The mainstream and specialist schools were founded 50 and 60 years ago, respectively. Small class sizes, enthusiastic staff and the latest interactive, digital whiteboard technology brings learning to life for pupils.

The Schools' Bursar explained. "We have a built a reputation for being progressive. The Headmaster's goal is to achieve very high educational standards while making learning fun.'

'This is helped by having the latest whiteboards installed in classrooms which the children have started to use, making the latest technology part of their everyday school life. Most of the teachers have adapted to the OliBoard dual-pen system very happily as they can involve the children more. We were also delighted that, during our recent round of ISI / Ofsted inspections, the inspectors specifically commented on the boards and were pleased with the way we were using them in class."

There are currently 9 interactive boards installed at the mainstream school, which include the Olivetti OliBoard dual-pen range connected to the School's Linux server, and 4 on the specialist school site, which are connected to Windows.

While there is a variety of capacitive pen operated boards installed in the

classrooms, the Head of IT and his IT Technician explained that they had a real need for uniformity.

"One of the challenges we faced with some of the previous boards was that they were quite slow to respond when written on and we had a problem with not being able to write clearly as lines appeared too thick on the screen, even if you chose the thinnest option. The OliBoards we have now react instantly and, with their high resolution, we can write more clearly with more text able to be written on the board."

Olivetti was aware that the Schools' IT systems are predominantly Linux-based and this needed some careful consideration. Fortunately, the Head of IT comes from a Linux background, so Olivetti was able to work closely with him and his IT Technician who focuses on the Windows application, to ensure everything connects properly.

The OliBoards have offered both school sites improved flexibility and quality. They are proving to be reliable, robust and fast. Images and information can be downloaded instantly from the internet or from the schools' servers and they offer a much more streamlined look to the classroom.

Teachers like the different backgrounds available on the OliBoards. The colours are vibrant and the pens can be used simultaneously on any part of the board.

The feedback from teachers and children has been very positive about the speed and ease of moving images and texts around on the screen and also about the functionality.

The OliBoard's function menu is located on the screen via a screen-based circular image - one for each pen. Each round image has a feather icon in the centre to signify a traditional "quill".

When this is touched with a pen, an extensive list of functions is displayed on the screen and chosen by the user. These "feather" icons can be minimised, allowing writing and images to take priority.

The screen can also be used to play videos, thanks to its high resolution screen and good quality speakers. Teachers are also able to print their work directly from the OliBoards to the Schools' network colour multi-functional machines, via the server, making homework and classwork quick and easy to produce.

What is more, the cost of ownership is also being addressed. "We noticed that we were starting to spend more on the maintenance of our older boards" explained the Bursar. "With our copying and printing equipment being managed for us, we know what the cost of ownership is going to be".