

www.revisionworld.com

Just because learning is online doesn't make it interesting. Just as interactive whiteboards can, in the hands of the most skilful teachers, be inspirational, in too many classrooms they simply reinforce didactic teaching and passive learning by pupils.

So it is with online revision sites. This one promises to cover the key aspects of each subject. The trouble is the next statement:

"RevisionWorld.com is currently developing a variety of interactive modules and different ways to learn which will be online shortly."

At the moment apart from some whiz-bang adverts for the likes of Sky and EasyJet, there's nothing here that pupils wouldn't get in more depth from a decent textbook.

The English section has a few superficial notes about some key GCSE texts, but nothing that would help a pupil to know how to write about them successfully. There are no sample essays, no hints on writing style, no tips for time management or exam technique. None of the site allows us to test our knowledge or apply our skills.

My guess is that the authors of the site have been out of the classroom for a little too long if they think anything here will either motivate young people or allow the site to compete with the big boys of the market, such as BBC Bitesize.

What they have going for them is a good brand-name and some flashy advertising. But I think as a GCSE or A-level student taking my exams in the next few months, I might hope for a little more.

Watch this webspace.

Geoff Barton is Head at King Edward VI School, Suffolk