



## Creating an engaging, interactive, and dynamic learning experience



Greek private school Poreia makes lessons more stimulating by bringing digital innovation into the classroom with Ricoh A6500 Interactive Whiteboards, helping students prepare for exams.

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## COMPANY & CHALLENGE

Based in the city of Xanthi in Thrace North Greece, Poreia is a private school that provides tuition to students from 15 to 18 years of age. With around 150 new students each year, the school teaches a broad curriculum covering mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, modern and ancient Greek, history, and economics. Founded in 1995 by physicist Dremsisis Giannis, Poreia has 17 teaching staff.

Poreia specialises in preparing students for exams at the end of their secondary education. With places at prestigious universities at stake, the school aims to help students to broaden their knowledge and gain a deep understanding of complex concepts and topics—from mathematical problems to economic theories.

Teaching methods and the classroom environment play an important role in student development. In the past, Poreia relied on traditional teaching and learning processes, using whiteboards and paper documents to share information and explain topics to students. Recognising that this approach could feel repetitive and uninspiring, the school looked to create a more engaging experience for students.



Dremsizis Giannis, Founder and Owner of Poreia, explains: “We are always aware of our responsibility to students and parents, so we were keen to introduce new ideas and ways of working. As young people are now using technology to manage so much of their daily lives, we decided to incorporate innovative digital elements into the classroom to support a more exciting, dynamic, and interactive learning environment.”

One key target was developing a streamlined hybrid learning model, where students could join lessons both in-person and online. Previously, teachers would run lessons for students in the classroom, then use an online meeting tool to connect separately with those unable to attend, which was a time-consuming process. Moving forwards, the school wanted to allow students to join lessons and interact with classmates remotely.

## SOLUTION

When Giannis saw a demonstration of interactive whiteboards at the Democritus University of Thrace, he knew he had found the ideal solution to transform learning at Poreia. Following the demo session, the school engaged Ricoh business partners Intertech and Copy Service to implement Ricoh A6500 Interactive Whiteboards. He adds: “We looked at interactive whiteboards from other providers, but we knew Ricoh was a global brand with great technologies. Copy Service and Intertech delivered and installed the solutions quickly, and provided helpful training so we were ready to use the solutions immediately.”



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Today, teachers at Poreia work through academic problems and brainstorm on the interactive whiteboards using the pre-installed S-Write application and a touch pen. They can also annotate documents and graphics, and make presentations by connecting a laptop to the Ricoh solutions via HDMI or USB ports.

“The Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards give us so much flexibility,” adds Dremsizis Giannis. “On each device we can effectively open up to 20 whiteboards at the same time. As soon as one whiteboard is filled with content and notes, we can flip over to the next blank sheet rather than stopping to erase everything. And if we want to refer back to something from an earlier lesson, we can scroll back to the material in seconds.”

Most excitingly, teachers can now incorporate online and video content into lessons through the interactive whiteboards. “Gradually, we have really started to innovate, adding multimedia elements to explain ideas in more exciting and impactful ways. As much as 40 percent of lesson time now involves online and video materials, and our teachers are always discussing new ways to create more enjoyable lessons,” notes Dremsizis Giannis.

The Ricoh solutions have also made running hybrid learning sessions much easier. Integrated collaboration tools such as Skype and Microsoft Teams allow remote learners to view

content written on the interactive whiteboards, while cameras and microphones in the classroom enable real-time communications between all participants. As a result, teachers no longer spend time running additional sessions for those unable to attend in person.

Dremsizis Giannis adds: “Around 90 percent of all lessons involve remote participants. Having that flexibility ensures no students miss lessons or fall behind in their studies. Another great feature of the interactive whiteboards is that we can record the lesson, and scan a QR code to transfer the file to a mobile device. We can then share the content with the whole class so they can re-watch and revise topics closer to exam time.”

## BENEFITS

With the Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards, Poreia has brought digital innovation into the classroom and created a more stimulating learning experience. During lessons, the school has seen student engagement increase, as Dremsizis Giannis explains: “Students concentrate for longer with interactive whiteboards than with traditional teaching methods. Combining text, video, and online content prevents lessons from ever feeling monotonous.”

The Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards are also helping students to



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acquire a deeper understanding of complex topics. "It's important that we not only explain facts and theories, but also their wider significance and context," notes Dremsizis Giannis. "For example, we now write out mathematical equations on the interactive whiteboards, then use videos and images to demonstrate their application in real-world scenarios."

In addition, Poreia plans to make lessons more interactive with the Ricoh solutions. In the runup to exams, the school will show questions from previous exam papers on the whiteboards; students will then connect their mobile device to the interactive whiteboard via WiFi or walk up to the screen to fill in answers, before receiving feedback from teachers. "Running more interactive sessions will help students to memorise key information, and ensure they are well-prepared for challenging exams," adds Giannis Dremsizis.

Poreia believes that the full value of the Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards will emerge over the next year, as current students work towards and complete their final exams.

Furthermore, the school is planning to highlight the state-of-the-art Ricoh solutions in its marketing campaigns to attract the next intake of students.

"When we first installed the interactive whiteboards, we were the talk of the town in Xanthi!" adds Dremsizis Giannis. "We know that the current cohort's parents are very pleased with the addition of new digital technologies to our classrooms. They expect us to offer the best possible teaching and learning tools, and with the Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards we are justifying their investment and improving the future prospects of their children."

Having started with four interactive whiteboards, Poreia is now considering expanding the deployment. "Initially, we thought the solutions were ideal for maths and sciences, but teachers of all subjects are now keen to use them," concludes Dremsizis Giannis. "Our collaboration with Ricoh, Intertech, and Copy Service has been a huge success. Any time we need support, we can call them and we get a quick response. With Ricoh we are creating a more engaging learning environment where students will thrive."

## ABOUT RICOH

Ricoh is a leading provider of integrated digital services and print and imaging solutions designed to support digital transformation of workplaces, workspaces and optimise business performance.

Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh's global operation reaches customers in approximately 200 countries and regions, supported by cultivated knowledge, technologies, and organisational capabilities nurtured over its 85-year history. In the financial year ended March 2023, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,134 billion yen (approx. 16.0 billion USD).

It is Ricoh's mission and vision to empower individuals to find Fulfillment through Work by understanding and transforming how people work so we can unleash their potential and creativity to realise a sustainable future.