



tell you it is the one thing they need more of, especially for themselves. While change is constant in the world, constant change in any type of teaching system is counter-productive for its students.

Lastly, communication has been greatly enhanced in recent years with smartphones that can receive emails, tweets and Facebook messages. However, any child over the age of 11 who admits to not having a smartphone must feel profoundly awkward. This is troubling, but the greater concern is if young people start to find face-to-face interaction increasingly difficult. Or, if they are absorbed by technology while out in nature, their capacity to experience its great and subtle moments may be dimmed. Perhaps then, with great mental stimulation comes the need to regularly disconnect from the outside world and quietly reflect on what has actually been learnt and experienced.

However, a number of questions still remain: do machines make us better educated? What is the aim of education and what is an educated person?

The Greek philosopher Plato held that education was not about putting knowledge into the mind of the student, but drawing out or educating the wisdom we all inherently have within us.

In a similar vein, the great Indologist Heinrich Zimmer once said that while for the West knowledge is about information, in the East it is about transformation. Perhaps it is time to incorporate a more transformative approach into Western education, whereby success is seen in terms of a more rounded, happy, truly educated and therefore free human being. If technology can assist in this cause, all well and good. But it is a mistake to see it as the driving force. Real education is something more difficult, more challenging, and more truly human.