3 All in a day's work

READING

1 **Complete the email with these words. There is one word you do not need.**

collaboration distractions drawback
gearing up pilot scheme siblings
support win-win situation

Dear Parents

We are [1] ..... for the new term here at City High and I'm delighted to announce a new [2] ..... for Saturday school. It is open to all years and we hope older [3] ..... will encourage younger brothers and sisters to attend. Students will be working in small groups for longer study periods, without the [4] ..... of everyday school life. It is an opportunity to get extra help with schoolwork, but also focus on those all-important life skills, such as communication and [5] ..... . I see it as a [6] ..... for both the students and the school. I hope you will give the idea your full [7] ..... .

2 **Read the article about school quickly. Who do you think the writer is?**

1 one of the inventors of the gadget
2 a journalist who writes about technology
3 the parent of an ill child

3 **e** **Read the article again and choose the best answer (A, B, C or D).**

1 In the first paragraph, what is the writer trying to do?
- **A** generalise about students not liking going to class
- **B** explain why some students are off sick for long periods
- **C** get the reader's interest in a new gadget
- **D** explain the effects of long-term illness on education

2 What does the writer suggest about the inventors of AV1?
- **A** They understand the importance of social media for young people.
- **B** Their company name suits the aim of their invention.
- **C** They have shown a lot of technical skill in their development.
- **D** They are interested in how teenagers interact in schools.

3 How does the camera on the avatar work?
- **A** It lets the ill student see the class without being seen.
- **B** It is activated by the student who is speaking at any time.
- **C** It allows just the teacher to see the ill student on screen.
- **D** It gives visual access to the students in the whole school.

4 What does 'this' in line 23 refer to?
- **A** the use of the student's voice
- **B** the contributions to the class
- **C** the use of the robot
- **D** the position of the robot

5 The avatar has been designed in such a way as to be
- **A** the same size as the missing student.
- **B** easily repaired if knocked off the desk.
- **C** used only indoors during class time.
- **D** meaningful to the ill student's classmates.

6 Marthe and one of her classmates agree that
- **A** the avatar should be available to other groups of students.
- **B** the benefit is that ill students' education is not interrupted.
- **C** Marthe's health makes life very challenging for everyone.
- **D** they miss each other when Marthe is away from class.

Extend

4 **Read the definitions and complete the compound adjectives from the article.**

1 lasts a long time (introduction): long- .....
2 very necessary (para 1): ..... -needed
3 an integral part of a gadget (para 2): ..... -in
4 made as they happen, as if face-to-face (para 3): real- .....
5 the same size as a person (para 4): ..... -size
6 resists water (para 4): water- .....
7 that you attend every day (para 6): full- .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Off sick, but still at school

What teenager in the world hasn't thought of staying at home on a schoolday and sending an avatar to class instead? But what about young people who want to go to school, but can't? Students who are missing out on lessons because they are in hospital or have a long-term illness. Meet AV1, the avatar that allows students to attend school even when they are off sick.

AV1 is the brainchild of a Norwegian robotics company appropriately named *No Isolation*. Their aim is to help young people who are hospitalised or going through long-term illness at home to feel less lonely. There is a strong social side to school, with young people making new relationships and interacting with the friends they already have. It is very easy for teenagers with health problems to miss out on this much-needed interaction and so become isolated during a difficult period in their lives.

So how does it work? Inside AV1 is a small computer connected to a control card that powers movement and sound. The robot can move from side to side, to follow who is speaking in class, and also tilt its head. An amplifier connected to the microphone and speaker control the sound. The built-in camera allows the ill student visual access to the activity in the classroom. However, the student is not visible to the rest of the class or the teacher. This is to protect their privacy during the time they are unwell.

AV1 is placed on the desk where the student would normally sit in class. They use an app on their tablet or phone to start the robot up and control its movements. Its eyes light up to show the student is ready to start the class. A light on its head indicates the student wants to speak. Real-time contributions to the class are made through the
line 23 robot with the student's own voice. This and the slightly humanoid appearance of the robot are important features. In the words of Karen Dolva, co-founder of *No Isolation*, 'This is an avatar, so an extension of yourself.' She describes AV1 as 'the eyes and the ears and the voice' of the ill student at school.

The dimensions of AV1 are also important. Although not life-size, the robot represents the ill child in class. It needs to be portable so that the student's classmates can carry the robot from class to class, and around school during breaks and lunch. AV1 is pretty tough, too. It can survive being knocked off the desk and it's water-resistant in case of showers when taken outside. The students who are in school also need to feel they can relate to the avatar. Karen Dolva explains, 'It can't be just a tiny camera because the other kids can't pick it up and take it with them. This is supposed to be their friend.'

When a high school in Norway got the opportunity to pilot the avatar, they jumped at the chance. AV1 was paired with a student called Marthe, who was unable to attend full-time school. According to Marthe herself, 'It is an amazing opportunity for people with challenges similar to those I face to be able to go to school, attend classes, and still know that they will get the rest they need when they have a bad day.' And in the words of one of her classmates, 'Marthe is a ray of sunshine, so of course we miss her when she's not here in person. But we wave at her and talk to her through the robot. The most important thing is that Marthe gets to attend classes and that she is a part of the group, even though her health challenges this.'

5 **Complete the sentences with the compound adjectives from Ex 4. There is one adjective you do not need.**

1. My sister has a ..... poster of her favourite footballer on her wall.
2. Your phone is only ..... so don't try taking pictures with it when you go diving.
3. I'm still at school so I haven't made any ..... plans for the future yet.
4. I'm doing a four-year degree, so I'll be in ..... education until I'm twenty-two.
5. Who buys a voice recorder nowadays? Everyone uses the ..... function on their phone.
6. After three exhausting weeks of exams, we all got some ..... rest.

LIVEWORKSHEETS