

Questions

Here's a full list of questions I wrote down at the start of Google's Names and Faces project:

- What is the scope of the project?
- Are there any limitations? Time?
- What is possible in the 8-hour time given?

New Student Registration

- When are students enrolled at a new school?
- Do teachers get access to this information?
- Can they access it before the new school year starts?

Registration System

- Are student names and photos documented electronically?
- What systems do schools use to electronically document student's names and photos?
- Is there one system used by all schools or do they differ?
- Is there a possibility of having access to this information?
- How can the information be accessed from these systems?
- What are the conditions with which the schools will allow the information to be shared? Such as compulsory security features for the student's privacy and the ethics regarding the distribution of children's names and photos?

Product Availability

- Is this a product that will be available worldwide?
- How will it be adapted for various languages and systems?
- Will it be able to adapt to the major differences in school systems worldwide?
- How will it work in countries where the student's names and faces aren't electronically documented? Or the technology used isn't available?

Teachers Current Conditions & Techniques

- How do teachers usually learn their student's names?
- Are there any existing tools available? What mediums do they use?
- How long does it currently take on average for teachers to learn their new student's names?
- How many names do they usually need to memorise?
- When is the first time they come across their new student's names and faces?
- How important is it for teachers to remember student's names?
- What benefits do teachers think knowing their student's names have? Is there any evidence from studies to prove this?

Schools

- Shall I focus on secondary or primary school teachers?
- Do I focus on state, independent, grammar, or specialist schools?
- Is this an experience to be sold to schools or individual teachers?
- If it is aimed at schools, which would have the budget to purchase the experience?
- Will the experience be compulsory or mandatory for teachers? Which would better motivate teachers to use the experience?

Memorisation techniques

- What are the best memorisation techniques for names and faces?
- Is there one proven to work quicker than other techniques?
- Do teachers use any memorisation techniques in their day to day work that can be applied to learning names too?

Assumptions

- Teachers have a great deal of responsibilities in a short amount of time at the start of term which can cause anxiety and stress.
- They are usually short on free time and especially at the start of a new school year.
- Teachers in the UK work on average 50.9 hours per week¹, most of this is spent on lesson planning, form filling and marking².
- The majority of schools in the UK register and enrol students electronically.
- The enrolment information can be used within the app, to safeguard students details security features will be required.
- I will focus British state secondary schools.
- The stakeholders for this app will be the teachers.
- The experience has to be accessible to the teacher at any given time or place.
- The teachers have their mobile phones with them at all times and therefore if it is in form of an app they are able to access it at any given time or place.
- Gamification and competitive aspects such as viewing other teachers progress can be used to encourage progress.
- There won't be a fixed number of new students for each teacher at the start of term as some will teach more than one subject.
- The statistics published by the department of education³ I assume the following about UK secondary school teachers:
 - Aged between 30-40⁴
 - Female
 - Educated with a bachelor's degree or higher
 - Working full time
 - From a white British background
 - Other audiences who could potentially also used the system could be administrative and management staff.

Ideas

- **Scope**

- MVP is the Names and Faces experience but with the possibility to add other student information such as attendance, grades, and progress reports.
- The system can also later on be used as an administrative tool to help staff, and teachers keep track of pupils and support to make it easier for everyone involved.

- **Data**

- Teachers can be given unique login details and password that reveal only their new students grouped into their new classes for ease of access.
- The teachers must login (automatically / manually) each time they use the app to safeguard student information.
- Having the data already available means the teachers can use the limited time in the classrooms to start to build relationships with the students.
- Giving teachers the ability to add additional information to their student's profiles may help with memorisation.
- The ability to automatically add information from the available school data means that even in the middle of term time if new students or teachers join the process will still be up to date and in place for the teachers.

- **Home Page**

- Allow teachers to view their progress and that of other teachers in the school.
- Give various options such as viewing classes, gamified memorisation techniques, testing facilities to track their progress and show their overall progress.
- Using Material Design means the teacher will be familiar with the layout and design allowing for ease of use and less time on-boarding.

- **Memorisation**

- The following articles where **teachers recommend memorisation techniques** they have used and been successful in remembering student's names:
 - [Why It's Important To Learn Students' Names Quickly](#)
 - [Learning Students' Names](#)
 - [Tips for Learning Students' Names](#)
 - [20 Tips for learning Student Names](#)
 - [How to Learn All Your Students' Names The First Day of School](#)
- All the articles **emphasised the importance of memorising names** as part of the greater aim of establishing relationships with students. Referring back to their experiences as students who regarded this as the first courtesy extended to them by their teachers, which demonstrated they cared.
- A few **recurring methods** used were, **seating charts, regularly using student names, creating flashcards** of students including their name and photo, and **memorable association**.
- The **Pythagorean Method of Memorization**, which is also known as **Triangular Movement Cycle** was mentioned repeatedly. It is:
 - Known as an associative learning technique.
 - Game based and uses matching information for example images and names on opposing sides displayed on flashcards.
 - Applying the psychological recalling of information for a range of purposes such a languages or academic studies.
 - It is a theoretical method consisting of several established education techniques which have been used for decades.