

The Bolton News  
22-05-2007

# University students to test text translator keyboard

**STUDENTS** from the University of Bolton will be taking part in testing a communications innovation on Friday — a new computer keyboard which turns text-speak into full English.

The Cre8txt keyboard's styling has been designed at the university's design studio. Its electronics components have been devised by parent company, Bolton-based Cre8txt Ltd.

The device is similar to a mobile phone keypad and uses patented predictive text technology.

Students will gather in the studio to test out the keyboard in time trials.

Design studio manager, Andy Smith said: "Students are big texters. They have some of the fastest thumbs in town so these time trials should be a thorough road test for the Cre8txt keyboard.

"It plugs into a USB slot on your computer — and away you go."

With a patent pending, Cre8txt keyboard is compatible with PCs, Apple Macs and the Xbox 360.

The university's role has included keyboard and casing design, as well as working with the manufacturers to ensure design tolerances were adhered to and the product could be manufactured cost-effectively.

Available online, Cre8txt has already gained attention. It has been nominated for a Big Chip Award, an annual competition celebrating North-west digital excellence.