

3 must-have gadgets for the office of the future

Our thanks to Business Grapevine

Forget ping-pong tables, slides and mini-golf courses, there are a handful of futuristic gadgets that will make the workplace more fun - and more productive.

We at Business Grapevine have compiled a list of technological titans that could make a big difference to the office. Some cheaper than others, but all with a strong return on investment.

And while most of these gadgets have been designed and marketed to improve home-life experiences, there are some clear parallels to the office – besides, employees spend more time there than they do in their living rooms.

Here are our three must-have gadgets that business leaders should invest in for the office...

1. [Amazon](#) Echo



Imagine an office dogsbody **that didn't need to be paid minimum wage**. We're not advocating slavery, no, instead we are talking about [Artificial Intelligence](#). No longer a dream of sci-fi scriptwriters, Artificial Intelligence is now part of our modern day lives.

Meet [Alexa](#), the brain behind Amazon's Echo device. She makes Siri and Cortana look like Neanderthals and could possibly be what every office needs.

With far-field voice controls, Alexa can change the temperature of the office, read out relevant **news, recite the office calendar and, for the more liberal offices, play music through the Echo's** 360 omni-directional speakers. She can even settle petty arguments among employees such as; **"What's the tallest mountain in the United Kingdom?"**

Working with third party developers (with more to come) Alexa will even be a worthy assistant to those working late. She can order food (Just Eat) and then check train times (National Rail) or order an Uber when people finally leave.

“Millions across the US have already fallen in love with Alexa. And, predictably, she’s even more likeable with a British accent,” said Jeff Bezos, Amazon Founder & CEO. “We’re delighted to be bringing Echo and Alexa to the UK.”

Price: £149.99

2. [Samsung](#) Family Hub Refrigerator



Food is a big part of the [office](#), we all know this. There always seems to be a valid occasion for cakes and treats, the kitchen is where everyone flocks to at lunch and the water cooler is where ideas (and gossip) is exchanged. But at the centre of all this: The fridge.

Usually an office **fridge isn't given a second-thought**, except by those paranoid food-possessive employees that refrigerate their lunch with caution and place a passive-aggressive sticky note on **top**. **But now, thanks to Samsung, 'the fridge' can be more beneficial to the workplace** than ever imagined.

The Family Hub Refrigerator is designed for improving home life. However, a number of the unique features can also be translated into innovative work improvements.

The door has an embedded 21.5-inch touchscreen that acts as an interactive White Board – a feature that is as useful as it is fun (but might need some policing). The screen also means that Directors, using the Smart Home app, can share photos and memos in real-time from wherever they are, to be seen by the entire office.

This can go one step further with the TV Mirroring feature; if a company is trying to communicate something internally, be it a new benefits package or just a company-wide message, the same video can be played throughout the office and on the fridge (**where people won't be able to ignore it**).

Calendars can also be synchronised and shared, making the office calendar more visible too.

Price: from £2,999

[Dyson](#) Pure Hot + Cool Link Purifier



Office temperatures are a common argument - some people are too cold, others are too hot. But did you know that if temperatures fall too low, employees have the right to take the day off?

The Associated Approved Code of Practice states that businesses must take action if workplace temperatures fall below 16°C – although depending on the nature of the work being carried out (if **it is more strenuous**) a temperature of 13°C may be acceptable. This is a problem that Dyson's new purifier heater can fix easily with its Jet Focus technology.

But the Dyson Pure Hot + Cool Link Purifier doesn't just ensure a fast, even and acceptable temperature across the entire room in all seasons, the futuristic fan also purifies the air.

The air pollution inside can be five times worse than the air outside, and given that we spend the majority of our lives in the office, this is something worth considering. The foam that can be found in textile-covered furniture can release formaldehyde gas, air fresheners and cleaning products can contain volatile organic compounds and gas hobs and food cooking (for those with a kitchen in their office) can do the same – **let's not even mention the microscopic material in our keyboards.**

Don't fear though, Dyson's pillar of purification captures 99.95% of potentially harmful particles, trapping them in the filter and eradicating them from the air you breathe. Furthermore, working with the Dyson Link App and the sensors inside, users can remotely monitor the air quality, set **new targets before 'very poor' levels are reached and track air quality history to detect peak pollution times.**

Price: £499.99