

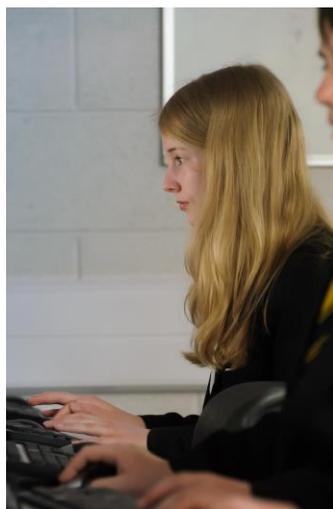
# Digital Literacies

*Going beyond the expected*



## The Education Fellowship

*This month's edition includes articles on Edmodo and English teaching at Rushden Community College, TEF Computer Science conference, blogs at Blackthorn PS, TEF students' visit to Microsoft Campus, SIMS Multiview, Safer Internet Day 2014, Computing at Key Stage 4, Earn a SID2014 badge and a thank you to Wrenn School staff.*



The next termly conference for TEF computer scientists will be held at The Abbeyfield Academy on 23rd January 2014. This time we are fortunate to have Jeremy Barlow, Academy Development Manager for *BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT* speaking to us about where teachers can get support in teaching computer science.

## Edmodo and English teaching at Rushden Community College

The English department at Rushden Community College is trailblazing the use of The Education Fellowship's social learning platform, Edmodo. After just one and a half terms, the platform is being embraced enthusiastically by teachers and students alike. It is being used to offer access to specially tailored revision materials to year 11 with students not just accessing it at home on computer, but also through the free app available on both Android and iOS platforms.

All homework is being managed through Edmodo for Key Stage 3 students, and work has been placed on the platform for Key Stage 4 one term in advance. Students of English and Language and Literature also have their work placed on

Edmodo one term in advance. GCSE course guides are made available to all students 24/7 with deadlines placed online to keep them on track. Teachers within the department see Edmodo as being a key tool to enable them to push up educational standards for their students.

During the spring term it is planned to use Parents' Evenings, where both students and parents can share the Edmodo experience. Students will help their parents to get online with the platform and to see more easily what work has been set for their children, and enable them to get regular updates and feedback on progress. Both The Education Fellowship and Rushden Community College see this as an exciting development in the new year.



Class 2DM has launched a terrific blog at Blackthorn Primary School. You can see it at <http://www.class2dm.com> It is their class blog (also linked to a whole school blog) that is currently showcasing their super hero film 'Super Family'. It was retweeted by the Northamptonshire Chronicle last month and has since been viewed over 300 times and in 9 countries! Children were ecstatic when they found out they were mini film stars!



*We are putting together the agenda for a visit to Microsoft by a select group of our Year 11 Computing students. They will hear guest speakers talk about the company background and strategy as well as hearing about Microsoft IT Academy and internships. It will be a memorable experience, and year 11 students from all TEF academies will have the opportunity to be selected to attend.*



[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Free SID 2014 resource packs with everything you will need to plan for the big day are now available.

There is a **Primary** and a **Secondary** pack as well as, for the very first time, a **Parents** pack too.

The school packs include:

- Quick activities sheet
- Drama activities
- Tell your local press template
- Poster
- Lesson plan
- Assembly script
- Assembly presentation

The parents pack include a script and presentation to hold a parents session in your school, a parents factsheet, conversation starters, a letter to parents, a poster and *What you can do right now* sheet.



## SIMS MultiView

Capita has approached The Education Fellowship to lead a national pilot on their new product, SIMS Multiview. SIMS MultiView provides academy groups with a central view of their schools' academic performance. It uses a simple, secure, cloud-based dashboard which will enable trustees, executives and Fellowship House staff to view data held in SIMS including attainment, progress, attendance and behaviour across their group. This school performance data is updated daily. Traffic light indicators show performance against the academy's targets, highlighting schools that are under-performing and enabling early intervention. Other screens provide focus on a particular school, allowing TEF to see how specific student groups are performing (e.g. FSM, EAL, or gender).

SIMS MultiView will allow TEF to centrally monitor schools without placing any extra burden on local academy staff (those who are data managers, for example). It will connect Fellowship House with the schools' securely held data – enabling information held in SIMS to inform decision-making and school improvement.

### Key benefits

- Keep track of TEF schools' performance
- Easily identify significant changes in the key data from all the schools with key performance indicators. Traffic light indicators would allow us to see how far TEF academies are above or below target and identify trends.
- Easy access to academy data
- Provide Fellowship House staff with a view into each academy's pupil data, allowing us to easily compare performance and identify critical differences between schools.
- Streamlines data collection processes
- Improves administration efficiency: time, money and reducing the risk of errors in processing data.

### Future developments

While TEF will initially monitor termly attendance, absence and lateness with SIMS MultiView, upcoming releases will allow TEF to review attainment and progress. More SIMS fields will be added over time based on user demand.

## Department for **Education**

We have sought clarification from the DfE about the status of computing for schools in England at Key Stage 4, and received this reply:

*"I can confirm that from September 2014 it is mandatory that all pupils study computing at all key stages, including key stage 4, and that the new programmes of study should be covered. This continues the currently mandatory requirement for all pupils to study ICT at all key stages. It is also the case that it is not compulsory for schools to offer a computing GCSE, although we would hope that many schools would choose to offer it."*



## **Earn a SID2014 Badge**

Young people, their teachers and parents will be earning digital Open Badges for helping to "create a better internet" on Safer Internet Day 2014.

"Let's create a better internet together" is this year's theme, which is being run by The UK Safer Internet Centre on 11th February 2014.

There are many ways that you can earn your SID2014 digital open badges, which are being awarded by the Safe programme. You can create and share stories, blogs, videos and pictures about making the internet safer, via the safe social learning platform Makewaves. Find out more at <https://makewav.rsvp1.com/s1e99cdIGCFN>



### **Thank you to Wrenn School staff**

Terry Ekins and Nick Mallard from Wrenn School have been stars, helping one of our primary schools out in their hour of need when they had a serious technical issue. A big thank you to both Terry and Nick for their exceptional support of another TEF school.

Many thanks to those students who submitted the fantastic entries for the First Annual TEF Programming Competition. Winning entries will be published in our February 2014 newsletter.

First Annual  
TEF  
Programming  
Competition  
2013

forever  
imagine  
program  
share



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### Win a Raspberry Pi Computer!



To mark the introduction of Computer Science and Computing into the curriculum, The Education Fellowship is providing students in its academies with the opportunity to win one of four Raspberry Pi computers.

Students at Key Stage 2, 3, 4 and 5 are invited to submit an original computer program written using Scratch. Scratch may be downloaded free of charge from <http://scratch.mit.edu/>.

The design specification, rules and entry form are included on the following pages. Further information is available from [albinwallace@educationfellowship.net](mailto:albinwallace@educationfellowship.net)

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