

Visible Learning, May 2015

Visible Learning

Educational Excellence



News about IT, computer science, online safety and all things educational.

This month's edition includes articles on the literacy Buzz Teachmeet at Olympic Primary School, Safeguarding, Microsoft Showcase event, Bletchley Park visit, Cluster Training Day, NetSmartz resources, Visible Learning website, Computer Science Day at Oxford University and the Inspire Theatre Company





Literacy Buzz Teachmeet at Olympic Primary School

At the end of last term we had our latest Education Fellowship Buzz Teachmeet; this time the theme was literacy. Primary and secondary colleagues enjoyed a performance of *The Jabberwocky* by Olympic pupils and then shared some great practice around reading for pleasure, engagement, phonics and strategies for encouraging writing. There were some terrific speakers from our Education Fellowship schools and we were fortunate to be sponsored by LovedByKids who donated some picture books.

Our next Buzz Teachmeet is on Tuesday, May 19th at South End Junior Academy with a Computing theme. It will be also be the first official Northamptonshire Computing At School Hub network meeting, which we will be honoured to be hosting. Register for this event through the Buzz Teachmeet link at bit.do/tef

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding section of the Visible Learning website has now been updated with the latest information on the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- Inspecting safeguarding in maintained schools and academies (updated March 2015)

Free Microsoft Education Showcase Event for Education Fellowship Schools

The Showcase Classroom is an innovative environment which allows you to explore Microsoft technologies. Through "hands-on" sessions, guided by their highly qualified teachers, visitors will be provided with truly immersive learning scenarios using the latest devices. Come and experience new approaches to using technology in the classroom, and discover a whole new way of teaching and learning. Best thing of all? **It's free!**

Date: 15th May 2015 or 12th June 2015

Time: Arrive by 9.00am

Place:
Microsoft London Office
Floor 2
Cardinal Place
London
SW1E 5JZ

Please let Albin know if you would like to book a place.



Education Fellowship Visit

Last week, some of The Education Fellowship's brightest mathematicians went on a field trip to Bletchley Park, home of the Codebreakers. It was a great success with 35 children from seven of our schools working together on a range of interesting activities including

- Code breaking
- A guided tour
- Cyber security
- Radio Communications (including a visit to the satellite station)
- Interactive displays on the Codebreakers

The children were very well presented and on a number of occasions the staff at Bletchley Park commented on how well behaved they were and how well they engaged with activities on the day.



Northamptonshire Cluster Training Day

On the first day of term, over 300 staff from Education Fellowship schools gathered at Rushden Academy for our first ever cluster training day. As well as keynote addresses by the Chief Executive, Chairman and motivational speaker Jim Roberson, there were over 30 workshops run by staff in our schools and guest presenters including Microsoft, BT and Capita. Thank you to all the staff who presented and who contributed so enthusiastically to the workshops. Thank you to the Inspire Theatre Company for inspiring us. A big thank you also goes out to Hayley Hamill who coordinated and organized the event so brilliantly.

NetSmartz

NetSmartz has a new resource-the NetSmartz Student Project Kit. This tool offers middle and secondary school students activities and projects they can use to teach younger students and their peers about online safety and digital citizenship. If you are familiar with the older Teen Volunteer Kit, be sure to check out this updated version.

The kit is being released just in time for **National Volunteer Week**. NetSmartz promotes the value of volunteers and is encouraging teens to take an active role in helping other students learn more about being safer online.

The kit may be downloaded from www.NetSmartz.org/StudentKit

Here are some new things you will find at bit.do/tef this month:



- Updated Safeguarding information (Safeguarding section)
- Downloadable resources from the Cluster Training Day (Teachers' sections)

**Inspire Theatre Company****Rushden Academy**

Now that the Inspire Theatre Company (Rushden Academy Year 12 and 13 BTEC drama students) has performed for our staff at the Northamptonshire Training Day, and have also performed at Key Stage 2 assemblies to so many of our primary schools, we have had a chance to reflect upon how good the actual performances have been. As a piece of theatre it is a remarkable piece of drama, beautifully crafted, choreographed and acted. The performances have been utterly captivating, the topic real and relevant and the plot totally plausible. The students have conceived, written, designed, directed and performed a piece of theatre which is simultaneously instructional and entertaining. These hard-working and talented students have created a piece of drama which will stay long in the minds and hearts of the audience. The Education Fellowship is grateful that the fruits of their labour have been shared with so many people. Our thanks go to them for the contribution they have made to the area of online safety and for the creation of such a powerful, well acted and produced piece of theatre.

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The Education Fellowship visits Oxford University

A group of computer science students from our secondary schools will be visiting Worcester College, Oxford on Wednesday 13th May. They will listen to a talk by Alison Atwell, Admissions and Access Officer on going to University and will then have a tour of the College with current Worcester students with whom they will also have lunch.

After lunch, they will visit Computer Sciences for an academic session where they will experience first-hand what studying computer science at a world-class university is really like.

Students from Wrenn School, Rushden Academy, Desborough College and Clarendon Academy will represent The Education Fellowship on this important trip.