

# Visible Learning

*Going beyond the expected*



## The Education Fellowship

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

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## Broadband

As part of our drive to obtain the best possible IT services at the best possible price, we have launched a new tender for broadband and filtering services for Education Fellowship schools (especially primary). Existing contracts will be honoured until they end, after which schools will join the new contract. Many thanks to Matthew Shaw from Rushden Community College and Terry Ekins and Nick Mallard from Wren School for helping put the specification together. To obtain a copy please contact Albin Wallace at The Education Fellowship offices.

## The Education Fellowship at Microsoft.

As part of the ongoing relationship that The Education Fellowship has with Microsoft, a group of year 9 and year 10 students from Clarendon College, Wrenn School and Rushden Community College were fortunate to attend a special conference at Microsoft Headquarters put on especially for them.

The conference started with the Microsoft's Schools' Business Manager, Graham Fox presenting a history of the company from its humble beginnings in the 1970s up to the present time where its vision is "a cloud and mobile-first world".

Two Microsoft interns, Helene and Sophie then spoke to our students about what it is like to work at Microsoft and the process of internship whilst doing a university degree.

They emphasised collaboration and teamwork as being two factors that were especially important within the organisation. The young interns spoke about their roles in digital marketing and event management.

They recommended that students looked at [www.twitter.com/getonuk](http://www.twitter.com/getonuk) and [www.beyourfuture.net](http://www.beyourfuture.net) as two important websites.

Phil Cross from the Microsoft Developer Experience department also spoke about working at Microsoft and emphasised to our students the importance of doing the right thing and doing it well- his personal recipe for success.

Phil talked about his work with people who build apps on Windows platforms and then introduced the students to [www.touchdevelop.com](http://www.touchdevelop.com) where they had fun using Windows devices to develop software applications.

After a delicious lunch kindly provided for our students by Microsoft in their beautiful gardens, Charlie Gilbert from the Microsoft IT Academy spoke about the Microsoft Apprenticeship Programme and the route into computer science through Further Education.

A big thank you to Microsoft for their generosity and continued support of The Education Fellowship and also to the teachers and students from the three schools who were great ambassadors for The Education Fellowship and who will help to spread the message about the importance of Computer Science back into our schools.

### Learning at Wrenn by Jennie Goodwin (Assistant Headteacher-Teaching and Learning)

"The Learning at Wrenn group began in March 2010 after I had recently joined the Senior Leadership Team. I was inspired after researching ideas focused around revitalising teaching and learning and the importance of professional learning communities.

I researched best practice and found that recommendations suggested an inclusive group, that had a fixed agenda and was time limited.

I therefore launched the group and since then we have followed the same format which appears to have been a great success. All staff are invited, although curriculum leaders are asked to send at least one colleague to represent their faculty area and to share ideas back and forth with their faculty. We start each meeting by sharing and listening around the group to a teaching and learning idea (feedback phase). The second part of the meeting (new learning phase) is spent with a focus on a particular area related to teaching and learning and led by a colleague (usually activity based). Examples of the new learning phase have included *creating a learning classroom*, *flipped learning* and using new technology such as Socrative in learning. We aim to keep the meeting to an hour and obviously biscuits are provided!!

In November 2012, Farid Charidine, one of our regular members, set up a Blog and we now are recording all of our ideas from each meeting and this is accessible for all staff via the portal. Every meeting is always informal and relaxed with staff commenting how much they enjoy the meeting and the ideas they have gained. This is a meeting where you can leave with at least one if not many ideas that you can implement straight away in the classroom.

One testimony from Rose Lewis, a Design teacher after attending L@W meetings:

*I am excited and overwhelmed with the presentation yesterday that I implemented some of the ideas in my year 8 class lesson 5. It is the best lesson I have ever had with year 8. Usually after lunch they are very hyperactive. The lesson was on designing ideas for bread. I used Socrative to brainstorm ideas regarding the shape, decoration and garnish then set them to work. I got some brilliant designs even from my less able students. I then used the circle with the question prompt with those who finished earlier to ask and answer questions in relation to the task. Some good questions were asked. The students enjoyed the lesson.*

On the L@w meetings:

*I love the way the group operates. This has motivated me to improve my teaching and has helped me to get rid of the fear of observations*

As with everything these days our challenge remains with measuring and proving the impact of Learning at Wrenn (L@W). All reports and reviews conducted at Wrenn since 2010 have acknowledged improvement in teaching and learning and as a senior leader it is great to observe examples of ideas shared at L@W being seen in practice when I do observations.

As teachers we are learning all the time and must never be complacent and must reflect on how we can improve. I am constantly using ideas that have been shared at L@W, just this week I used an idea from our most recent meeting for year 11 revision. This entailed getting students to prepare how to teach an exam question in small groups to present to the class, but they had to add in some false information to see if this was spotted.

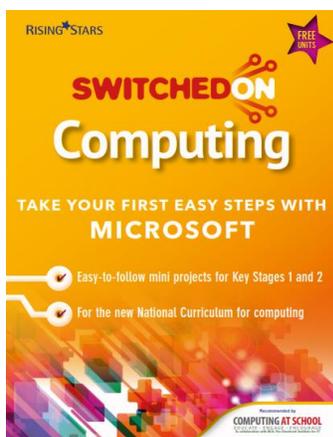
The students loved it! I feel privileged to be part of my colleagues learning ideas and will feedback at our next meeting the success of this activity. Surely any activity that engages staff to reflect on their teaching and students learning is in my book worthwhile and cannot do anything but good in terms of improving teaching and learning in a school."

Wrenn School has generously shared its **Learning at Wrenn** resources with other Education Fellowship schools. You can find it at [learningatwrenn.wordpress.com](http://learningatwrenn.wordpress.com) or via The Education Fellowship's Visible Learning website.



## Wireless Networking

To assist Education Fellowship primary schools with planning for wireless networking, we have drawn up a model specification that can be used for going out to tender with our OJEU Framework Providers as well as any local providers the school may wish to invite to tender. Please contact Albin Wallace if you would like a copy of the specification or if you would like assistance in putting together or evaluating a tender.



## Primary Computing Curriculum

We have been working with the ICT coordinators in our Northamptonshire primary schools to put together a new Education Fellowship primary Computing curriculum and are pleased to let you know that it is nearly finished. The new curriculum will include section on IT, Computer Science and Digital Literacy and will be distributed to all Education Fellowship primary teachers before the end of this academic year.

Many thanks to primary colleagues for their valuable contribution to this document.

We have some free copies left of the Microsoft Switched On Computing units including CD. If you would some copies dropped off to your school then please contact Albin Wallace at the Education Fellowship offices.

## Digital Parenting

We also still have a few free copies of the Digital Parenting magazine available. If you would like a copy, maybe to leave in the school foyer or at reception, then please contact us and we will get a copy to you.



## Visible Learning Update

Our visible learning website is growing quickly. Some recent additions include:

National education news stories:

<https://theeducationfellowship-public.sharepoint.com/news>

Resources for secondary teachers

<https://theeducationfellowship-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/Secondary-teachers.aspx>

Resources for primary teachers

<https://theeducationfellowship-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/Primary-Teachers.aspx>

Revision resources for secondary students:

<https://theeducationfellowship-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/Secondary-Students.aspx>

Each month we will regularly update you with what is new on The Education Fellowship Visible Learning website.





## Now is the perfect time to clean-up your digital footprint.

Here's a checklist with some tips to get you started:



### **SEARCH YOURSELF ONLINE**

Do a quick Web search of your first and last name. Don't forget to try slightly different spellings, too. Find something about yourself you don't like? If it's posted by a friend, ask them to take it down. Or try contacting the site administrator and request they remove any unwanted content.



### **CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**

The privacy settings on your favorite website or social network may have changed since you last checked. Take time to understand current settings so you know just what you're sharing, and update them if there are things you don't want public.



### **USE STRONG PASSWORDS**

Whether email or banking, it's a good idea to have different passwords for different sites. Change the passwords across your various accounts to a combination of words, numbers and symbols that are easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess.



### **UPDATE SOFTWARE**

Computer viruses and spyware can wreak havoc on your computer. Check for software updates you may have previously ignored or download one of the many free, safe programs available online to ensure you have the most up-to-date security for your system. You can even schedule automatic updates and let your computer do the work for you!



### **THINK BEFORE YOU POST**

Your digital footprint is more than the information available about you on the Web; it's about your interactions too. Before you put anything online, ask yourself if it's something you really want others to see or know about you.



### **MAINTAIN YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

Take time to understand your mobile device settings and set a password. It's also a good idea to review any apps you've downloaded and their information-sharing policies. Delete ones you just don't use.



### **BUILD A POSITIVE REPUTATION**

Use your online presence to build a positive reputation for yourself and inspire others! Start a blog about the good things happening in your community, make a virtual fundraising campaign for a cause you're passionate about, or text a compliment to a friend.



Family  
Online Safety  
Institute