Visible Learning

Educational Excellence

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

This month's articles include Collaborative Schools at Clarendon Academy, Literacy Buzz Teachmeet, Digital Parenting magazine, Visible Learning updates, Mystery Skype, Science cluster meetings, Edmodo, Warwick Blogs, Harry Potter Night at Rushden Academy, Safer Internet Day, Edmodo for parents, Computer Science for Fun, Magna Carta; Digital Rights, Visible Learning website update

The
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Collaborative schools at Clarendon Academy

Mark Harrison from Clarendon Academy has been doing some work with collaborative schools and was asked to run an event for primary students. The above photo shows the Year 5 AGT Computer Science 'unplugged' morning he ran recently. It was well attended with 35 AGT Yr5 students from about 7 feeder schools.
They learnt:
- What an algorithm is
- The super fun network (sorting number)
- Sorting weights
- Muddy city (travelling salesman) problem

We have been able to obtain 600 free copies of the latest edition of the excellent "Digital Parenting" magazine. If you are running an event for parents, please do let me know and I will make sure you get copies to distribute.

Mystery Skype is an educational game, invented by teachers, played by two classrooms on Skype. The aim of the game is to guess the location of the other classroom by asking each other questions. It is suitable for all age groups and can be used to teach subjects like geography, history, languages, mathematics and science.

https://education.skype.com/mysteryskype

Registrations for our next Buzz Teachmeet are now open. Free tickets may be reserved at:

bit.do/teachmeet

Please note, that we have moved the date for this Teachmeet to Thursday, 26th March 2015 at 4.00 pm. The event will be hosted at Olympic Primary School and the theme is **Literacy**.

I am also seeking teachers to give short presentations on the theme. The presentations can be 2 or 7 minutes long and should focus on practice within the classroom. Please send me the contact details of teachers who may be interested in presenting. The format is relaxed and collegiate and is a great opportunity for teachers to share what they are doing in their Education Fellowship schools. Teachers may also contact me directly.

Please share the above with staff in your school so we can maximise attendance at this important event.

The Education Fellowship Primary Science Cluster Meeting

 After the successful inaugural meeting of the Education Fellowship primary science cluster meeting hosted by Michelle Brett at Windmill PS, a second meeting will be hosted by Ruskin Junior School on Thursday 23rd April. Watch out for further details.

Just a reminder that as the weather worsens, there is no reason for any student to miss any instructional time during a snow day. The Education Fellowship's learning platform, Edmodo is the perfect vehicle for setting and managing work and for doing online tutoring. It can be accessed free of charge through a PC, laptop or via an app on a mobile phone or tablet. I have just had a meeting with the Education Director of BT and they are adopting Edmodo as their education platform too. Please do ask if your staff would like any training or help getting Edmodo set up. It is a great resource, free for us to use and is the world leader in learning platforms with 46 million users.

A group of our high ability year 6 mathematics pupils are invited on a trip to Bletchley Park in April at no cost to our schools. Each pupil will also get a Bletchley Park souvenir bag. Your school's only financial commitment is to arrange transportation (up to 5 pupils per school) and packed lunches. Each group of five pupils will need to be accompanied by one adult. I suggest that you look at sharing a bus or minibus where practicable. Your school's ICT coordinator has further details.

Warwick PS have been undertaking training for staff on blogging along with their new blogging site with the help of John Sutton who has been helping them with the WEP project. Here is a tweet from him with the link. https://twitter.com/hgjohn/status/562242780282748928

Rushden Academy has been doing some work on *Life without levels* and have sent through this link to a short but fascinating clip which generated a lot of discussion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-Dn2KEjPuc

**Harry Potter Book Night
at
Rushden Academy**

I recently had the privilege of joining staff and students at Rushden Academy for the Harry Potter Book Night. Students enjoyed a sorting hat ceremony with Professor McGonagall, potions corner and fortune telling with Sybill Trelawnley and also photography at the Azkaban Corner. Everyone then participated in a Harry Potter Quiz to determine who knew the most about this fantastic character, who has been inspiring imaginations with unparalleled magic for the past 20 years. Oli Coleman created an enchanting atmosphere with magical lighting and a smoke machine, which was very popular with everyone. Kim printed endless Hogwarts paraphernalia which was used to enhance the amazing props Ricky and Maria created.

It really was a magical evening; staff were so proud of their Muggles, witches and wizards who attended the event; they were still talking about it the next day. Well done to Tracey Frohawk and colleagues for organizing it.

Safer Internet Day

Many of our schools celebrated Safer Internet Day with a range of activities. Children from South End Junior Academy can be seen in the photos below making posters and a short video on e-safety. I enjoyed taking the online safety assembly for pupils at Ruskin Junior School and also Windmill Primary School
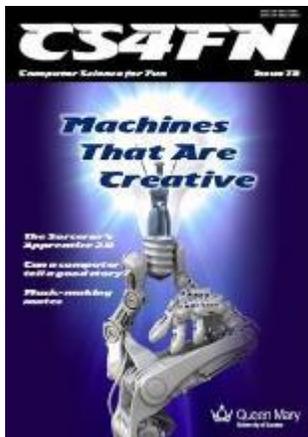
Edmodo for Parents gives an easy way for Education Fellowship parents to stay involved in their children's education. With ongoing updates, they can find out about:

- Upcoming homework and quizzes
- Past due and completed assignments
- Important teacher announcements
- And more

Now available for iPhone and Android, parents can download the Edmodo for Parents app and connect to their child's classroom. This is supported free of charge by The Education Fellowship. Please ask us if you require guidance or training.

We have some free copies of *Computer Science for Fun* magazine from University of London. This edition's theme is "Machines that are Creative".
Please contact us if you would like a copy sent to your school.

As featured on Radio 1's *The Surgery* last month, this new classroom resource encourages young people to debate their rights and responsibilities online, from cyberbullying and trolling to web censorship and freedom of speech. Join students from across the globe to create a new Magna Carta for the digital age.

Aimed at Citizenship and Computing students. Deadline 30 April 2015.

In partnership with the World Wide Web Foundation and British Council.

http://www.bl.uk/my-digital-rights

We have given our Visible Learning website a bit of a facelift to make it look fresher and to make it work faster and better on tablets and phone. Here are some new things you will find there this month:

- New timelines for GCSE and A level reforms (Education Matters)
- AAB training presentation (Advisory Boards)
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (SEND)
- Crisis management policy (Policies)
- Managing change policy (Policies)
- Audit committee and finance committee terms of reference (Policies)
- A World without levels- Tim Oates (Teacher Resources)
- Preparing for inspection (Business Intelligence)