

Visible Learning, September 2015

Visible Learning

Educational Excellence



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

This month's articles include Computing (Natasha Hanzlik from Windmill PS), Education Fellowship Science Network (Michelle Brett from Windmill PS), Microsoft update, Preventing the radicalization of young people online, ParentInfo, Visible Learning website update



"Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is."

Natasha Hanzlik- Windmill PS

"On what was the hottest day of the year I travelled up to York to the National Science Learning Centre to the Computing conference.

It was a fantastic day and it was great to see that lots of people were feeling the same way about computer programming- eekk!

The day was mainly focused on the Computer Science element of the Computing curriculum.

Our main guest speaker of the day, Phil Bagge who is the creator of Code-it.org, spoke about programming and he was really emphasising the need to reduce 'learned helplessness'; he explained that we need to instil in our children that EVERY computer programmer makes mistakes or 'creates bugs' in their programming and we need to develop programming resilience in order to become effective programmers. We need to encourage our children to find and fix 'bugs' in code for themselves rather than us finding the problem and sorting it for them; we can act as the facilitator, providing hints/strategies and then allowing children to explore these. We need to become strategy providers NOT solution providers. He also emphasised the need for adults and children to not humanise computers e.g. the computer is being naughty or the computer hates me today- this I have been guilty of!

During the day there were two different 'workshops' to go to (as well as guest speakers) and I attended a session on use of Beebots and links to the Computer Science strand of the curriculum which I will be having conversations with the Reception/Year 1/2 team shortly. It was great to see how Computer Science CAN be brought into KS1 and it's not just solely for KS2.

The other session I attended was about creating Apps- it was great to see how easy and accessible this can be to our children so I will be picking the brains of the year 5/6 team to see if we can get some of our children being the Apps creators of the future!

That's just a snippet of the day but as you can see lots of things to take on board, lots of which are quite simple to implement."

The Education Fellowship Science Cluster

Michelle Brett- Windmill PS

"The Education Fellowship Primary Science Cluster first started meeting in January of this year. We meet each half term at different schools and we have been able to share successes and good practice in science across the schools. More recently we have been looking at assessment and this, along with moderation will be our main focus for 2015/2016. The next meeting is on Thursday 17th September and will be held at Ruskin Junior School in Wellingborough. At this meeting subject leaders from the last meeting in July will be sharing their experience of using the Chris Quigley Assessment grids in their schools.

Windmill is also now a Lead School of an ENTHUSE Science Partnership! The project will start in October and runs over 3 years. It will involve working with other schools in the Education Fellowship group to raise attainment in Science.

Our Aim is to inspire teachers and children in order to raise attainment across all schools, bringing Year 6 attainment closer to National Average by the end of Year 1 and above National Average by the end of Year 2. Attainment of boys and girls will be broadly equal in all schools by the end of the second year.

As well as ongoing CPD, the project will involve 3 inter-school competitions each year between partner schools with Years 5/6 children. These competitions will hopefully be judged and sponsored by local business. (Careers week has provided lots more contacts to help with this!)"



Update on the Microsoft Partnership with The Education Fellowship

STEM – There is an even bigger focus on this area for the coming year and partnerships with CAS amongst others looking to drive this further.

- o Stuart Ball from Microsoft is keen to help us out with STEM. I am happy to put him in touch with any interested Education Fellowship schools.
- o TouchDevelop is a brilliant new multi-platform from Microsoft. Contact us for further details.
- o Check out kodugamelab.com for some great resources
- o Microsoft supports Hour of Code extensively and there could be opportunity to do all sorts of creative things in bringing together Microsoft employees and Education Fellowship staff and pupils ahead of or on the day of Hour of Code
- o The Microbit has loads of resources supported by Microsoft and should really bring coding to life

Teaching and Learning –

- o There is a new product arriving soon in Class Dashboard; it isn't out quite yet, but I will keep you closely posted
- o OneNote is increasingly becoming a key tool for classroom productivity. More to follow soon.

- **CPD and Teacher Development** – As we look to increase the skill level across The Fellowship, we are looking at innovative and creative ways to achieve this:

- o ITA – A fantastic (and cost effective) way to enhance the IT skills of anyone within the Fellowship whilst significantly boosting employability!
- o Office Mix is going from strength to strength and is being used widely to support CPD

- **Infrastructure** – Of course with all of the above there is the need for a really solid platform

- o There are huge advancements being made with Power BI and I hope to be able to share some more detail with you soon. I see it fitting in with a lot of our priorities and programmes. There is also School Information Sync on the horizon, which will only add value to our data culture

Preventing the radicalisation of young people online

Following the passing of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the active prevention and detection of radicalism has become a statutory obligation for education providers.

The scope of e-safety and safeguarding has changed, with unprecedented online threats posed to children across the UK. So, it is crucial that children are able to develop vigilance online. Teachers need to be given the confidence and awareness to provide a 'Counter narrative' to extremism, as well as being able to identify children who are potentially at risk or showing signs of radicalisation.

To this end, the London Grid for Learning has produced a free resource available to all, named 'Counter-extremism: narratives and conversations'. The series of bitesize videos features Sara Khan, director of women's rights and counter-extremism organisation Inspire. She concisely explains the context behind the threat of radicalisation and provides tips on how teachers can engage pupils in a dialogue about extremism.

The resource aims to help the many teachers who may feel uncomfortable or ill-informed when trying to provide a counter-narrative to ISIS, for example. Sara points out that a teacher does not need to suddenly become an expert in the intricacies of a particular faith – they can ask general questions about, say, human rights, treatment of women or the use of violence for example. This gets pupils questioning extremist practices.

Holding a staff meeting or internal training event and viewing the resource is a great way to begin educating staff on the subject.

The resource can be found at <http://counterextremism.lgfl.org.uk/>

COUNTER-EXTREMISM narratives and conversations

CEOP, The Education fellowship and The Parent Zone announce the launch of Parent Info, a new free service for our academies.

We are pleased to be announcing the national launch of **Parent Info**, bringing together the most expert, up-to-date content aimed at parents for academies to host on their own websites.

From pornography to eating disorders, from sexting to violent extremism, Parent Info covers issues affecting young people online and offline. The content is written by leading experts in their fields (Brook, Young Minds, Coram, iRights, Diana Award, Quilliam, FPA, Beat etc).

For the last two terms, Parent Info has been tested in 100 schools across the country. 100% of users said they would recommend it to another school, and there were exceptionally high levels of approval for the content.

The information, support and resources - added to weekly - can be adapted, displayed and distributed online and off in any way schools want.

As schools face growing pressures to protect students from online hazards, Parent Info is a vital resource for engaging parents. The content is lively and easy to read and comes with all the authority of CEOP and The Parent Zone, leading providers of information and support about online risks. It is designed to make children more creative and confident in the digital world and to avoid online harm.

Parent Info is dead easy to set up. Why not **try it today?**



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What is new on the Visible Learning website?

- Radicalisation presentation by Simon Pratt from Wrenn School (Buzz Teachmeets)
- Inspiring the Future Careers link for primary students (Primary Teachers)
- New leadership materials from the principals' briefing (Business Intelligence)
- A new link to support Education Fellowship subject networks (Communities of Practice)