

ICT in the Classroom

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Introduction

Some great resources in this edition and I particularly like Google's latest creation 'Google Cultural Institute', this tool can allow the teacher who may not be confident in using technology with their students to seamlessly integrate it into a history lesson.

The monthly pick is Scratch which is a program I have been using for some time now. Although I use it in my ICT class it can be used from almost any subject angle and most importantly I have never seen a student not adapt to it, yet!

This will be the last month of having an introduction section as I want to create more space for content.

Regards,

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Voki seems to be gaining popularity in many secondary schools. This is a web based application which allows you to create a talking character. The voice for your selected character can be recorded directly online or you can choose to upload an audio clip. This Voki can then be uploaded into your blog, website, social media platform etc. A great resource for language teachers. www.voki.com

Google CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Google have recently launched their online museum which is a fantastic resource for history teachers. The site covers a number of historical events which occurred over the past century. The online museum allows you to visit the past virtually by offering video footage, manuscripts, photographs and artifacts. A new way to study history.

www.google.com/culturalinstitute



Monthly Pick

SCRATCH

Scratch has been gaining momentum in Irish schools over the past number of years. So what is it? First of all Scratch is a programming language but before you stop reading and say I do not know how to

program please be aware that it makes programming both fun and interesting. The software enables teachers and students to create animations, stories, music, games etc.

How does it work? With Scratch you can go as basic or as complicated as you or your students like. The construction of your animation is done by simply inserting the pre-loaded characters or using your own (known as sprites) and programming these to do actions by dragging the relevant blocks in place (your script). Scratch is free to download from the website listed below.

Why use it?

Using scratch in the classroom is a fantastic way



of getting your students to engage in a very rewarding piece of technology and soon you will notice that students will forget about using the technology and refocus on telling their story. This for example could be making a volcano explode, telling an animated story, ordering a coffee in French/Spanish etc. Scratch was developed by the MIT media lab.

www.scratch.mit.edu

ANIMOTO



This is a great web based program which allows you and your students to create really professional looking movies or collages of pictures. There are 3 packages to choose from with the most basic being FREE, but if you do a lot of movie editing it could be worth paying.

www.animoto.com

Seomra Ranga

In today's teaching world the teacher does not stop their work at 4pm each day, and Damien Quinn is a perfect example of the extra dedication to his profession. His site 'Seomra Ranga' – classroom in Irish - is not for profit and its aim is to share practical resources for your classroom. A great primary and secondary teacher resource with a large Facebook following

www.seomraranga.com



zondle.com

games to support learning

Recently I came across this relatively new games based website which may appeal more to primary teachers. Zondle enables teachers and students to create games which can be used in classroom learning situations. You have the ability to choose learning topics already created or you can choose to create your own. Users can then monitor their progress or the teacher can monitor his/her students' progress, customise their avatar or create their own casual game. Zondle has the ability to be fully controlled by the teacher.

www.zondle.com



EdHeads is an online educational resource that provides free science and maths games and additional activities which promote critical

thinking. Choose from simple machines, virtual knee surgery, or stem cell heart repair, among others. The site is of course FREE and currently has a Facebook following of almost 20,000 which proves its popularity. www.edheads.com

7 articles to keep you up to date with current Technology & Education topics (click on the image to be directed)

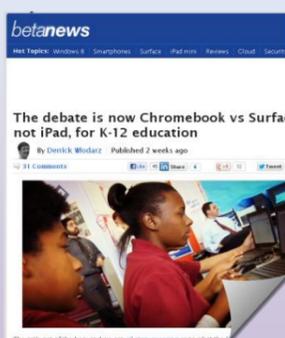
Game Based Learning – Why Does It Work?



7 Tools Students Can Use For Group Projects



iPad vs Surface vs Chromebook



The Teachers Guide to Facebook



Ireland's Broadband Plan – Too Ambitious?



15 FREE Learning Sites



Teachers Report Mixed Impact Of Digital Media



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