Digital Leaders: What are they up to?

The Herefordshire Digital Leaders' programme continues to be hugely popular with more schools joining each time I run the conferences. It's great to see so many teams of children growing in confidence as they lead on the development of technology in their school. You can see more of what's been going on both inside schools and at the conferences by taking a look at their public facing [Seesaw blog](#).

We had a great summer event at The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford in July, supported by *[Albion Computers](#)* when all the schools came together and showcased some of the work that digital leader teams have been involved with through the year.

In this term's conferences we're going to focus primarily on:

- **Coding projects** for specific age groups in KS1 and lower KS2 (using some of the resources outlined above) that could be taken back to school and used in class alongside a teacher or in a coding club.
- **Blogging** using Seesaw between schools
- **Simple to use apps** for quick gains, with an educational focus.

[You can book places here](#) and we'll hold the conferences at the usual venues with dates as follows all sessions start at 9.30 and end at 2.30:

- **Holmer CE Academy, Hereford** - Monday 8th October
- **Luston Primary** – Wednesday 10th October
- **Ashfield Park Primary School, Ross-on-Wye** - Wednesday 17th October
- **Hampton Dene Primary, Hereford** – Thursday 18th October

herefordshirecomputing.com

Springing off the Page – Christmas special

Many teachers have benefited from the series of *Springing off the Page* courses that [Stephanie Austwick](#) and I have been running in the autumn term for the last two years. Targeted at specific year groups, we take a highly acclaimed picture book and place it at the heart of a unit of work for Literacy and heavily support it with tech.

This year we're running three sessions with a focus on short films – mainly Christmas TV adverts (and a few picture books) for Christmas. Each session will provide you with a 2-3 week unit of work, we'll give you the planning and walk you through the activities. There's a charge of £50 +VAT per delegate for schools subscribing to the Herefordshire Computing Support SLA (to pay Steph!); if you don't buy into my SLA then the charge is £100. A discount of 10% will be applied if three or more places are booked from the same school. Each session takes place at Holmer CE Academy. You can choose to come to a morning or afternoon session on each day (the content will be the same) [You can book a place here.](#) Dates are:

- **Reception & KS1** – Tuesday 6th November, 9.30 – 12.00 OR 1.00 – 3.30
- **Y3&4** – Wednesday 7th November, 9.30 – 12.00 OR 1.00 – 3.30
- **Y5&6** – Tuesday 20th November, 9.30 – 12.00 OR 1.00 – 3.30

Learning by Questions – a promising new resource

I recently saw a demo of this new product and was most impressed. In many ways it seems like a "coming of age" on the journey we've been travelling for some while in primary schools in Herefordshire through devices such as ActivExpression. This package is easy to use, will save you time (really – I promise), is engaging for children and builds on the very best pedagogical principals around questioning to inform planning. There are some impressive results from a yearlong trial last year. It's an online product that provides you with hundreds of question sets in Maths, English and Science, all matching the NC and in a beautifully simple online interface that allows you to target easily selected question sets on different groups of pupils (using tablets). Children are immediately engaged and work in silence. They get constructive feedback as they progress through their questions (carefully tailored to likely mistakes in each question) and you get a blow by blow dynamic analysis of what each of them understands, presented in an easily accessible format that you can use to focus future teaching.

We'll spend a good chunk of time in this term's Computing Conference looking at this product (see below), there's a free 60 day trial of the full product. See www.lbq.org. It really is easy to get going, you'll be up and running in 10 minutes – Go on, see if I'm right! You'll need to download the free *LbQ Tasks* app from the app store or Google Play store onto a tablet to answer your questions as a child.

Autumn Term Computing Conference

This will take place at the Council offices on Plough Lane on Monday 12th November, 1.00 – 3.30 pm. This term we're placing the emphasis on maths and computing coordinators might like to bring a maths colleague along, or let them come along instead if that works best. There will be a detailed agenda in due course but a key item on it will be a full demonstration and trial of *Learning by Questions* (see above). The conference is free for school that subscribe to my SLA, otherwise £70. We look forward to seeing you. You can book places here.

Creative Connections tea party

Creative Connections, Herefordshire is an organisation run by the Arts College that aims to put schools in touch with organisations across the county that can offer them meaningful experiences in the creative arts. You can check out their website and directory here. They have organised another after school tea party (free tea and cakes) to take place on **Thursday 20th September, at 3pm** (but don't worry is you can't get there until a bit later) until 5.30 pm. at Hereford College of Arts. Booking is FREE but essential.

Come along and meet over 35 arts, music, dance, performance, heritage and museum organisations based in Herefordshire and beyond who deliver a range of exciting educational programmes designed to work across many aspects of the curriculum. They are bursting with ideas to share with you! PLUS

- Topical talks from the Crafts Council & Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- Marketplace of organisations for networking and making contacts
- Free entry into a prize draw to win a 2 hour workshop for your school or classroom
- Lots of delicious tea and cake!

I'll be there!

Herefordshire Life through a Lens – Film project 2018

Our most recently completed film project again focussed on the photographic archive of Derek Evans. The high point of these projects is always the screening at The ODEON in Hereford in July but another highlight this year was a workshop at HARC (Hereford Archive and Records Centre) where children are able to handle Derek Evans' original photos, digitise them from negatives and to see what goes on generally with a VIP tour of this superb building.

We were particularly delighted at the way in which the schools taking part seemed to embrace the project this year with many embedding it into work going on in the classroom. You can see this year's amazing crop of films here or get a flavour of all of them in this trailer of the 2018 project. Keep reading for our next exciting project for 2018/19 …

Windows on our Communities – This year's project

This is a media project that will start very soon. It will be particularly attractive to Church schools and is based on the idea of linking images in stained glass in your local church to real life projects that happen in your local community and celebrating them. We'll be

running it along the lines of our well established film projects but with the added attraction of 360 degree filming and innovative use of virtual reality. Leintwardine, St Michael's Bodenham and St James' Hereford piloted the core film idea with me recently and their films can be seen on the project website with a fair degree of background and a number of resources to get you going; you might like to take a look. Please let me know if you'd be interested in taking part, you'll be hearing from me with more detail, dates of workshops etc. very soon.

New FREE Online Safety resource from Google

Google's *Be Internet Legends* curriculum is a new FREE internet safety educational resource for pupils aged 7-11 years-old. Created by Google and Parent Zone, it includes PSHE accredited lesson plans and activities delivering important internet safety messages. With an interactive game to reinforce learning, the Be Internet Legends programme provides a complete internet safety resource for KS2. The curriculum pack is free to order. Please note that the packs are limited to one copy per KS2 teacher and each teacher needs to apply (or someone does on their behalf). Check FAQ section here.

Welcome to Scratch 3

Welcome to the Scratch 3.0 Beta

We're working on the next generation of Scratch. We're excited for you to try it!

Most schools are using *Scratch* in some form or other, you may be using the old tried and trusted downloaded version of Scratch 1.4, or perhaps Scratch 2 online, on your laptops and PCs. You may think you're using Scratch on your iPads, but that's actually a cut down version of Scratch for KS1 and is called *Scratch Junior* (confusingly!)

MIT has just released a beta version of Scratch 3. So what does that mean for schools? The key development for the large number of Herefordshire primary schools turning increasingly to tablet technology is that Scratch 3 will work on them (Hurrah!) You can try it out now. This is great news as Scratch is still the best (in my opinion) core platform for coding in primary schools.

A beta release is a bit of a test platform and as such is often incomplete and may contain bugs. A key thing to be aware of with this beta release is that you can't save your work online yet. It is possible to download / upload your projects to your computer (this is how many school use Scratch 2 at the moment to avoid having to create accounts) but that functionality won't work on tablets.

There are many other great improvements too and you can learn more by visiting the FAQ page that MIT has setup – though I have to say that not all my questions were answered here. I'm looking forward to the full release early in the New Year.

Coding Resources for the Computing Curriculum

Following on from the above item I thought it might be good to have a bit of an update on where you might go to find great resources for teaching coding in your classroom. I'm often asked about this. The Computing Progression I created in 2014 contains a suggested breakdown of the coding skills across KS1 and 2. That still seems a sensible way to divide up the programme of study. There are links there to a number of good resources but things have moved on. I'd encourage you to visit Phil Bagge's site www.code-it.co.uk where you'll find very comprehensive lesson plans covering all sorts of areas with splendid support material. In particular:

- Scheme of work for KS1 (by year group)
- Scheme of work for KS2 (by year group)NEW: Scheme of work for Y3

Herefordshire Computing Support is …

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