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wriggle newsletter

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Typetec Announces New Education Brand

In September 2012, we were delighted to announce the creation of Wriggle, a new brand to represent the education division at Typetec.

to providing the best service and the best products to our school partners, as part of our 1:1 mobile learning programme.



Wriggle enables schools to transform their teaching and learning environments through effective use of mobile devices. The new Wriggle brand symbolises our passion for education and our continued commitment

The Wriggle team had a very busy but exciting summer developing the new brand. All of the hard work has paid off and we are extremely proud of the finished result. We hope you like our new logo and website as much as we do!

Wriggle Rolls Out In 21 Schools

The Wriggle 1:1 mobile learning programme rolled out in 21 schools this academic year. The team visited each school to introduce teachers and students to their new device, providing an induction workshop and teacher professional development to ensure that everyone was prepared for the move to digital schoolbags!



Wriggle Launch Marks Biggest Delivery Of Digital Schoolbags

We would like to say a big thank you to the staff and students at Malahide Community School who took part in a fun photocall to officially announce the new Wriggle brand. 218 first year students received mobile devices as part of the Wriggle 1:1 mobile learning programme, representing the biggest delivery of digital schoolbags to ever take place in Ireland.



Digital Schoolbags - for Malahide Community School

In September 2012 over 200 first year students at Malahide Community School moved to the forefront of innovative technology when they embarked on the Wriggle 1:1 mobile learning programme. As part of the programme, each student received their very own 'digital schoolbag' which saw them exchange conventional textbooks for iPad's equipped with eBooks and interactive content, in an attempt to prepare students for the modern workplace.

Before the initial iPad deployment which marked the largest delivery of 'digital schoolbags' in Ireland, teachers of Malahide Community School attended multiple days with Wriggle. This ensured that all staff members were comfortable and confident with the new technology. Although the programme is not mandatory, it has proven extremely popular amongst the parents, students and teachers of Malahide Community School. All involved were keen to experiment with interactive technology that allows students and teachers to download educational Apps and videos for use in the classroom.

Welcoming the move, school Principal Patricia McDonagh was eager to stress the advantages that the Wriggle programme offers. 'An obvious advantage for children who choose to take part in the scheme is a lighter schoolbag' said Ms. McDonagh, 'however the school also wants to develop a future learning ethos based around the increasingly technological demands of the world we live in. A recent ERSI study has shown that boys in particular tend

to disengage in mainstream education when they get to second year, whereas an interactive system such as the Wriggle programme ensures that such students remain engaged for hopefully the rest of their school lives, and also prepares them for the 21st century learning environment".

Wriggle's 'digital schoolbag' has been so successful in Malahide Community School that Ms.McDonagh intends to expand the programme within the school over the coming year.



FAQ

Why do I need WiFi?

How many schools are using ebooks in Ireland?

In September 2012 10% of the 1st year students entering post-primary school in Ireland used a personal device to access their textbooks digitally. This is set to grow to over 20% for the 2013 first year intake.

Why are schools doing this?

There are many reasons for making this change – one of the biggest is the new Junior Cycle Programme which commences in 2014. The new programme seeks to develop new skills in our students, in particular creativity and critical thinking, while diversifying the forms of assessment to include course work and digital portfolios. Students having their own devices will allow them to develop these skills within school and gives them access to a huge range of educational content at any time.

Can my students not just bring whatever device they have at home and use their ebooks on them?

Accessing digital books is only the beginning of the opportunity that mobile devices affords. For teachers to create new learning tasks and guide students through them they need an amount of consistency and certainly in their classroom. For instance, if the teacher constructs a learning exercise with the features of a particular App they may find that some students have devices that don't run Apps and therefore they cannot participate in that piece of learning. It can also present a technical support problem which most schools do not have the capacity to deal with.

How can I make this affordable for the parental community within my school?

Many schools who have embarked on this journey have worked with their local Credit Unions to come up with a very affordable package so parents can pay the cost on a weekly basis over a number of years.



How can I get my teachers on board?

Teachers are vitally important to the success of any mobile learning programme. Wriggle provide a range of professional development workshops for teachers to give them the skills and confidence to utilise mobile devices in new and engaging ways. We have been very impressed so far with the energy and enthusiasm that teachers have brought to these projects. We believe that when teachers are properly supported that they are actively engaged and have the desire to keep developing new ways to use their devices to engage students.

Why do I need WiFi?

For the majority of us, WiFi has become a ubiquitous part of our lives. With the advent of the smartphone and tablet computers, access to the internet and email has become a basic everyday task, so it's important that it works. WiFi provides, fast and easy access to the internet without the need for wires.

In the classroom, access to the internet (when used correctly) can be just as important. Prompting students to seek information for themselves, compile data and create content from educational Apps, is all driven by the internet and in turn WiFi.

App Reviews by Thomas Creighton

Educational Training Specialist and Apple Professional Development Consultant.



'The App store is a wonderful and scary place in equal measure. There are over 700,000 Apps listed, each with various degrees of usefulness. At www.tme.ie we try to take some of the guesswork out for you, by reviewing and providing video tutorials on the best Apps for Education'

TeacherKit should be on every teacher's list of 'Must-have' Apps. It allows you to keep all your attendance, behaviour and grades of students in one central location, as well as some interesting features such as emailing all parents/students or simply arranging a seating plan for your classes.

Once you have created your class, the application becomes quick and easy to use. That's not to say that you can't quickly set up your classes either, with even a face detection option built in so that you can simply create your students files based on a single group photograph and an option to "Tag" - similar to that on Facebook (although the information stays private within the App!)

The App provides a level of specificity that others don't. For example, TeacherKit, allows you to customise your attendance levels adding perhaps a level called "Late" in addition to the standard "Present" and "Absent." Users can also keep track of things like student allergies. At the end of the day, you can email an overall report for the year to students/parents. You can backup files to Dropbox, so that you never lose the information. The great news is that this App is also totally free.



Explain Everything. This is a fantastic App. This has great potential to help those who cannot afford an interactive whiteboard (IWB) to use their iPads as one instead. Explain Everything is an easy-to-use design tool that lets you annotate, animate, and narrate explanations and presentations. The App records on-screen drawing, annotation, object movement and captures audio via the iPad microphone.

Annotation is quick and for the most part simple. There is a pen tool that can be adjusted by colour, width and transparency so it double as a highlighter. Shapes and arrows can be added to the presentation along with pictures from your photo album. If you prefer to type rather than write, you can quickly add text to any slide, or just start with a blank slide and add text on the fly.

For students, they can import an existing PowerPoint presentation and just draw and highlight over the top of slides, all the while verbally explaining, and export to a movie that encapsulates their understanding.



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