14 wriggle newsletter

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Language Special

This newsletter celebrates the power of technology for Modern Foreign Language education and the teachers who are spearheading it. Languages play a fundamental part in our curriculum from primary to second-level. Our world is becoming more interconnected than ever. Languages are key to engaging within it.
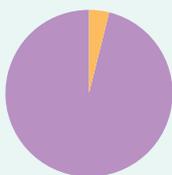
Hello Dia dhuit Bonjour

Digital Strategy Survey Results: Deadline Extended

We asked you in our last issue to fill out a survey giving your thoughts and ideas on Digital Strategy for schools and you replied in your hundreds! We want to say a massive thank you to every single educator who took time out of their day to respond. The responses are still flying in, so we've extended our survey deadline to **June 5th, 2018**. If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey, please visit:

https://bit.ly/2JTWjYN

We wanted to share with you a few of the results we correlated so far, to help you with your Digital Strategy.

96%
of respondents felt that technology is and will play an important part in teaching & learning in schools.

77%
of respondents feel that their staff would be interested in developing the use of ICT in their classroom.

Is your school ready to begin its digital revolution?

Hop on board the Wriggle Roadcaster, our new mobile technology classroom.

Wriggle has hit the road with our very own Wriggle Roadcaster! It's a cutting edge mobile technology classroom, which will help schools develop digitally across the country. Minister Richard Bruton officially launched our Wriggle Roadcaster amongst 1,500 educators at the IPPN conference. The Wriggle Roadcaster aims to assist schools to start their own digital journey. It's working towards supporting and fostering key digital skills, like coding, problem solving, computational thinking, creativity and more through the use of technology.

The Wriggle Roadcaster is now accepting applications of interest for school visits to primary and post-primary schools. Email: roadcaster@wrigglelearning.ie to find out more.

Richard Bruton launches the Wriggle Roadcaster at IPPN 2018

Gaeilge agus teichneolaíocht: Agallamh le Frank Ó Tormaigh

There is no doubt that the implementation of technology can be challenging at times for schools. However, implementing technology in Gaelscoileanna can pose another set of challenges for educators to overcome. Frank O'Tormaigh is an Assistant Principal in Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada. He has stood out to Wriggle, not only as a pioneer for technology in the classroom, but as a champion of the Irish language too.

Here, he talks about his experience of using technology in Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada. He offers advice on how other Gaelscoileanna can overcome challenges in an arguably English-centric ed tech world.

Confidence is the key."

Frank Ó Tormaigh
🐦 **@FrankOTormaigh**
Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada
Assistant Prinicipal

As a teacher in a Gaelscoil, do you feel that there is enough scope to use technology in an Irish language setting?

"I think that a lot of Gaelscoileanna feel a bit left behind when it comes to technology as the vast majority of platforms, apps etc. are in English. So, the challenge for me is to find technology which can be used in a bi-lingual setting. For example, we use Book Creator in school to write stories as Gaeilge, the virtual learning environment Edmodo where children can upload work as Gaeilge and assessment tools like Kahoot, where I can create my own quizzes as Gaeilge. Scratch is also available as Gaeilge. What's important is the process that the children go through. If they are collaborating, creating and analysing as Gaeilge then that's the most important thing."

How does using digital technologies benefit your students?

"In many ways. I find it particularly helps children who struggle with the more traditional methods. I've seen children who struggle with writing create wonderful projects through various forms of media like iMovie, Minecraft and Lego We Do. It gives them a different channel with which to express themselves. I'm not a fan of abandoning the pen and paper altogether but I would certainly say that it is beneficial to all children to experience as many different types of creative tools as possible. For example, when my class are doing a particular project they can choose whichever media they like, and they have created excellent projects using Minecraft, Scratch, PowerPoint. They then learn from each other and are motivated to use a different media for their next project."

What advice would you give to a Gaelscoil, or any school, starting out on their digital journey?

"Don't feel as though you have to get everything up and running as soon as possible. It's a continuous process. Investigate and research what will work for your school, start small and build on that.

Don't skimp on technology. In my experience if you buy cheap then you end up replacing it a lot sooner. It's worth making a big investment which will last a lot longer.

Professionally develop your staff. Teachers need to feel confident in using the technologies that you are bringing into the schools. Events like **Road to {Code}** with Wriggle are great ways for teachers to get a taste of what is out there plus the Wriggle Roadcaster can come and demonstrate lots of things at your school. There's nothing worse than feeling under pressure to introduce something into your teaching but not having the confidence or professional development training under your belt. Confidence is the key."

Frank at Wriggle's **Road to {Code}** in Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada

Interested in attending a **Road to {Code}** event?
Email: **roadcaster@wrigglelearning.ie**

On the Global Stage: Modern Foreign Language Learning with Le Chéile Secondary School

Le Chéile Secondary School first opened its doors in September 2014. Dr. Áine Moran, Principal of Le Chéile, had a vision where technology could enhance teaching and learning for teachers and students alike. To make this vision a reality, she knew that a strong emphasis on ICT would be required. She initially introduced technology with incoming first years through testing students.

> On administration of the CAT4 test with our incoming first year students we realised that a large number of our students were non-verbal and/or visual learners. We felt it was incumbent upon us to provide a learning environment less dependent on textbooks and more visual and interactive for the students.
>
> **Dr. Aine Moran, Principal Le Chéile Secondary School**

Technology encourages a student-centred, personalised approach to learning. With Wriggle, the school opened under a 1:1 iPad scheme with a VLE Schoology system to support this approach.

> "When parents and school management decided to embark on this approach before the school opened, we liaised with Wriggle to develop the project. Wriggle has been an invaluable support to Le Chéile Secondary School providing ongoing support, training and deployment services".
>
> **Dr. Aine Moran, Principal Le Chéile Secondary School**

Four years on, and Le Chéile now has over 450 students attending the school. The iPad has created a level of student engagement that Dr. Moran has "never experienced before". With students becoming "independent thinkers", researching, creating and presenting their own work. The same applies to the teaching community at Le Chéile. Teachers in the school now create their own curriculum using the iPad to develop documents, videos and photos for resources and assessment. Thus, creating a "flipped classroom experience".

One of the greatest achievements by the school so far is their European Language Label for the way it teaches MFLs. The school has joined up with different schools in Europe to create a fully immersive cultural and language experience. This allows teachers and students to use the iPad to "communicate in real time with schools across Europe".

Teachers create the content for the curriculum on the iPad. They can utilise tools on the device like Airdrop and Split Screen to instantly share with their students. The class can share photos, videos and documents created on the iPad and vice versa with their European counterparts. This creates an immersive learning environment that allows the students to engage fully in the language and culture. Adopting apps like Kahoot and Padlet, free assessment and collaborative apps, the teachers are then able to test and assess students on their knowledge instantly. Students and teachers use the microphone on the iPad for this 'digital exchange programme'. "Students add voice recordings and video they make themselves to the books so that all skills of language learning – writing, listening and speaking – are used all the time". They then present this on the Book Creator app. Here, they can add voice recordings, images and videos that they develop themselves to create a fully immersive learning experience of the language.

Le Chéile Secondary School are an inspiring example of a school who creatively optimise the iPad for teaching and learning and especially MFL.

> The iPad is great for making and sharing presentations and also doing group work. It has helped me to work more efficiently in groups.
>
> **Daniel Chakhanine (5th Year)**

Teaching and learning with iPad at Le Chéile Secondary School

Want to follow in Le Chéile's footsteps? To get started email: **sales@wrigglelearning.ie**

Wriggle's **Top 3** Language Apps

Gloria Enrique

" *To have another language is to possess a second soul.* "
- Charlemagne

There is a plethora of modern foreign language learning apps to aid students reading, writing, aural and oral skills. Technology can make MFL learning a much more dynamic, interactive and productive experience for all.

Duolingo:

FREE APP

This game-based app makes language learning fun. It focuses on four components of a language: reading, writing, listening and speaking. These four elements structure every MFL exam in the Irish curriculum. We love its simple and fun interface, which will definitely help to engage students learning!

Flash Academy:

FREE APP

Many of us remember writing out flash cards for our language exams to learn vocabulary and grammar. Flash Academy takes this to new heights. Its flash card feature allows you to hear and listen to a native speaker replay the words. There is a really nice component where you can point your mobile device's camera at an object and it will translate it. This app is suitable for beginner to advanced levels.

FREE with Microsoft 365 for Education

Skype in the Classroom:

Do you want your class to engage with the culture that they are learning about? Skype in the Classroom is the perfect solution. Expand language learning and learn about different cultures in real time and bring language learning to life. Take a look at how Gloria uses Skype in her Spanish classroom.

Some MFL Twitter Accounts we enjoy:

@PDST_MFL PDST Modern Foreign Languages

@jctMFL Junior Cycle for Teachers: Modern Foreign Language

@lfls1 learnforeignlanguage

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your digital schoolbag

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Solution Expert Education

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Unit G6, Calmount Business Park,
Ballymount, Dublin 12.

w. www.wriggle.ie
e: info@wrigglelearning.ie

Teacher Feature!

Gloria Enrique from Sacred Heart Tullamore is pioneering in her use of Windows in the classroom. She was one of two teachers in Ireland selected to go to Microsoft's prestigious E2 Education Exchange in Singapore. We asked her questions on her experience of using technology in her classroom for MFL.

1. What subjects do you teach?
Spanish, Business Studies, CSPE, SPHE and ICT.

2. What are the biggest challenges with teaching a language? Does technology impact student engagement?
I think that when you learn a language it is also very important to get to know the culture and traditions of the various places where that language is spoken. This could be difficult if you are not travelling to those places. For this reason,

I find Skype to be a fantastic application,

not only for the language classroom but for all subjects across the curriculum. This year we are participating in a global educational project with students from Grupo Sorolla in Valencia and my 1st Year students connected with them via Skype. They talked about their countries, their projects and they finished talking about their favourite songs! That was a unique learning experience.

3. What is the biggest advantage of using technology to teach languages?
Learning vocabulary and the different Verbs Tenses and Grammar rules can be challenging and educational apps like Kahoot, Quizlet or Memrise can help students to review concepts whilst having fun. Learning Tools in OneNote is a great app for helping students to improve pronunciation and practice oral communication independently.

4. In your opinion, why is it so important that students learn a language?
The world we live in is becoming more and more interconnected. Our society is becoming more diverse every day. I tell my students that we are all unique and that we have to celebrate our differences. Language plays an important part in celebrating this. It is through language that we communicate, and express our opinions and thoughts.

5. In five years' time, what will teaching be like in schools?
A far greater emphasis will be placed on student centered, self-directed learning. Collaboration and project-based learning with key cross-curricular linkages will be evident. Game based learning, virtual reality and augmented reality will bring curriculum to life in a way that was not possible previously.

Read Gloria's full interview on: **www.wriggle.ie**
Follow Gloria on Twitter: **@MissGEnrique**