

11 wriggle newsletter

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Case Study – St. Mary's Academy CBS Carlow



New Learning Methodologies bring St. Mary's CBS into the 21st century.

St Mary's CBS Academy in Carlow may be a small school of 575 students

but the school's adoption of new teaching methodologies in the classroom is both extremely impressive and innovative. St Mary's school is currently running its 5th year deploying 1:1 digital mobile learning. With both the junior and senior cycle now integrated into the program all 575 students have the benefit of interactive learning and innovative teaching methodologies.

Principal Leo Hogan has been very pleased with the transition so far: *"To date, the experience has been very positive and I'm surprised by the ease at which students and teachers have taken to the technology. Every teacher has an iPad, something we think is necessary to develop the project to its full potential."*

In the last few years, the school made a huge leap towards the creation of a 21st Century Learning Environment with the introduction of a new active learning methodology and



an extension of class periods from 40 minutes per subject to 1 hour per subject. Furthermore, the configuration of classrooms changed and seating arrangements were aligned to facilitate group-work, peer-collaboration and a more investigative approach by students. Leo was glad to report that the feedback to date from all parties has been "extremely positive".



"This new way of learning also works because the students are using tools that are more familiar to them"

Not only has this program changed the learning style for students but also their behaviour. According to Deputy Principal, Louise Williamson, *"The students are no longer getting agitated waiting on the bell to ring, in fact we no longer have a bell. The students are now engaged in what they are learning and are taking an active approach to their studies"*

From the school's perspective, Leo has noticed numerous changes since introducing 1:1. Teachers have moved from the instructional 'chalk and talk' approach to constructivist learning which in turn is giving students great opportunities for researching within class and has encouraged them to adopt a more personalised learning

approach. Teachers are now able to facilitate students who have different learning styles and intelligence levels within their class through different media and apps, such as, Kahoot, Duolingo, iBooks, Khan Academy, Science 360, TED and numerous others. They are also using learning platforms such as Edmodo and Schoology to interact with students in real time.

"You can definitely see an improvement in the IT literacy of students. They are growing up in a world surrounded by technology. This way of communication comes more naturally to them and it prepares them for the 21st Century Working environment"

Leo believes, that the introduction of the New Junior Cycle, which started with English in 2014 and will include Business Studies, Science, Modern Foreign Languages and Art for students starting in 2017 will, promote the use of devices to facilitate the achievement of many of the core principles of the new curriculum. Specifically, the changing role of the teacher from instructor, to facilitator of learning.

"Students will be able to take more responsibility for their learning and become more independent. The challenge now is to move from the technical to the pedagogical aspect of a mobile device in the classroom to ensure that these devices are much more than a convenient but expensive means of carrying your books".



Digital Science

There is a huge amount of digital resources available to assist with teaching and learning in Science. We have selected a sample of some of the best resources to assist students and teachers when studying science.

Khan Academy

FREE APP

khanacademy.org

Khan Academy is a great app that provides students with a wealth of knowledge and educational content on different topics including science, physics and math. It offers over 10,000 videos and tutorials students can watch at school or at home and learn at their own pace. They've have partnerships with institutions such as NASA, The California Academy of Sciences and MIT, that offer exclusive content.



• VVVV

Video Science

FREE APP

itunes.apple.com/us/app/videoscience/id333284085

This is a great app for visually displaying science with a growing library of over 80 hands-on Science lessons that are great for home and the classroom. These short videos demonstrate inexpensive and easy to recreate experiments that are designed to inspire and excite students of all ages.



Periodic Table

FREE APP

itunes.apple.com/us/app/periodic-table/id1019468967

This periodic table is a fact-filled, image-rich app. Where you can see elements in their natural and changed states. You can find out their real-life applications and check out podcasts and videos on all of your favourite elements.

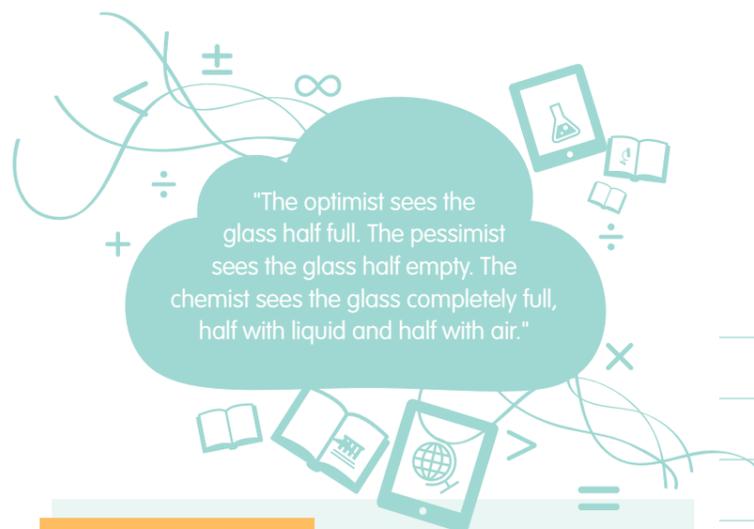


Virtuali-tee

FREE APP
T-Shirt €28

curiscope.com/product/virtuali-tee/

This app is at the top of its game combining the anatomy of the human body with augmented reality. The app requires a special t-shirt that can be bought online. Get a student to put the t-shirt on and point your iPad camera at the t-shirt. Watch as it comes to life and you can explore the anatomy in fully animated 3D image that lets you move in and look around the body. You can even zoom in to different organs and watch as the virtual videos show you how the body works.



"The optimist sees the glass half full. The pessimist sees the glass half empty. The chemist sees the glass completely full, half with liquid and half with air."

Skeptical Science

FREE APP

skepticalscience.com

Ever heard someone claim climate change isn't happening? Did their explanation seem wrong but you didn't know why?

Skeptical Science helps you to find out what the peer reviewed science experts are saying about big topics like climate change or vaccinations. The easy navigation by the app allows students to take a statement and find out for themselves whether it is based on credible science or not.



Spend your Money Wisely....

Finally we have some funding to support the use of ICT in Schools! Wriggle have created a useful guide to help you to ensure that you are investing in appropriate and relevant technologies for your classrooms.

This guide, developed in line with the ICT Grant Infrastructure communication from the DES includes an eLearning plan that will help you structure your school's approach

and vision for implementing ICT in teaching, learning and assessment. It has information on CPD for teachers, eLearning planning and Cloud solutions for education.

To start your journey today, contact us at nextstep@wriggle.ie and we will ensure you get a copy of this essential ICT Infrastructure Guide delivered to you.

Celebrating Our Top Educators in Apple

The Apple Distinguished Educators (ADE) program recognizes teachers who are using Apple technology to transform teaching and learning. They are at the top of their field in the use of Apple technology for teaching and we are delighted that four teachers from our partner schools have been selected to be part of the 2017 program.

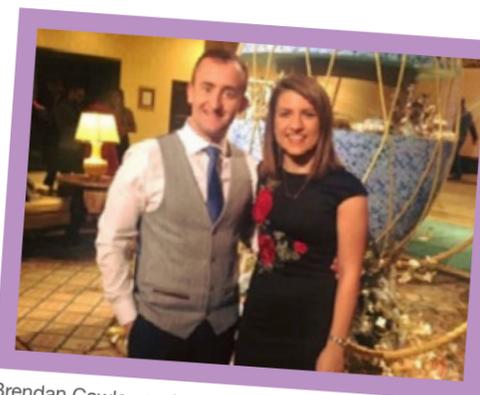
These are Eoin Hughes (Loreto Abbey Dalkey), Linda McCusker (St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk), Lyndsey Balfe (Fingal Community College, Swords) and Robert Dunne (Kingswood Community College, Dublin). Big congratulations to them!

Eoin from Loreto Dalkey when asked about the program said, *"I am very honoured to have been selected to join the Apple Distinguished Educators Class of 2017. I have always believed that technology can be used to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. However, it was not until we introduced the 1:1 Mobile Learning Programme using iPad in Loreto Abbey Secondary School that this truly became possible. With the support of the Wriggle Team, the 1:1 programme has put technology in the hands of our students, allowing our teachers to create more engaging and personalised learning experiences"*.

Learn more about this group of innovative educators at www.apple.com/ie/education/apple-distinguished-educator



Eoin



Brendan Cawley and Amanada Joliffe at the Microsoft E2 Education Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Microsoft E² Conference

Wriggle were recently represented at the Microsoft E2 Education Exchange Conference in Toronto, Canada by our Teacher Engagement Manager Brendan Cawley. This event was a forum to spark new ideas and celebrate outstanding teaching practices with fellow educators. Among them were Ms. Amanda Joliffe, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert Fellow, Science, Biology and PE teacher from Coláiste Pobail Setanta.

Throughout the week, attendees were shown some of Microsoft's latest technologies, including Microsoft Classroom, OneNote for Edu, Robotics, STEAM and Minecraft. Attendees also had the opportunity to share the ways in which they're driving digital transformation in their own classrooms and collaborate with an array of other innovative educator experts.

If you'd like more information on beginning your own digital journey feel free to contact Brendan at brendan@wrigglelearning.ie

What is GDPR and is your school ready?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force from the 25th of May 2018, replacing the current data protection act as the main data protection framework.

The GDPR Act is being implemented to encourage further transparency, security and accountability by anyone who controls or processes data, while also strengthening data privacy for individuals.

But what does this mean for schools?

The GDPR is increasing responsibility to ensure that data and information is managed appropriately and kept safe.

To enable this, the GDPR act has brought in new measures that schools should be aware of:

- Increase in penalties
- Schools must now appoint a Data Protection Officer

How do you, as a school, prevent these fines and new laws from affecting you?

We have created a useful list of steps to help you and your school prepare for GDPR.

1. Be Aware:

Make sure that decision makers and key people in the school are aware that the law is changing to the GDPR and don't leave it to the last minute.

2. Be Accountable:

Create an inventory with all the current data your school holds. Make sure it's up to date and all staff have basic data protection training.

3. Communicate Data with Staff:

Review all current data privacy notices and put a plan in place if changes need to be made.

4. Get Parental Consent:

Verify all individuals ages and gather parental or guardian consent for all data processing activity, if necessary.

5. Individual Rights:

Make sure the school is aware of the main rights that any individual should have under the GDPR act. Such as right to access and erase data.

6. Data Breaches:

Adopt an internal procedure for reporting a personal data breach. Any breaches where the individual is likely to suffer some form of damage must be reported straight away to the Data Protection Commissioner.

If you still have questions on the new GDPR act more information can be found on the Data Protection website:

www.dataprotection.ie/docs/GDPR/1623.htm

The Wriggle Spark Programme for teachers is the beginning of something new...

The Spark Programme aims to provide all the elements you need to ensure the implementation and development of digital technology in schools is effective and affordable.

It gives you, the school, the ability to provide devices, configuration, support, and training to your teaching staff for an affordable monthly fee.

So how does it work? Well, it's simple!

Payments are made over 36 months which means no capital outlay. After this period, you will have a number of options, including continuing to make the monthly payments to get a complete device refresh, ensuring your teachers have the latest technology at their fingertips.

What's included?

Microsoft Surface Bundle

- inc. Keyboard and Pen (x25 Teachers)
 - Microsoft Surface 3 64GB
 - Protective Case
- Device Configuration & Deployment
- Device Management (3yr cover)
 - Device Refresh Option
 - CPD

From €549 per month*

iPad Bundle

- (x25 Teachers)
 - iPad 128GB
 - Protective Case
- Device Configuration & Deployment
- Device Management (3yr cover)
- Device Refresh Option
 - CPD

From €422 per month*

* This is a finance offer. For full terms and conditions please contact Wriggle. These options are examples only. We can offer tailored solutions for different volumes.



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

w. www.wriggle.ie
e. info@wriggle.ie
t. 01 5009060 Wriggle
t. 01 5009065 Wriggle Helpdesk

Teacher Feature!

Danny



We're working with some wonderful teachers from across our network of schools and we thought we would share with you how they use technology in the classroom.

Danny Murray from St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush had a chat with us about his digital experience and what it has taught him.

What subjects do you teach?

Physics, Science, Coding

How have you integrated iPad into teaching within your classroom?

The main way the iPad has been integrated into the classroom is through research and use of educational apps in the classroom

A great example of this is using the Phet website's atom builder. It's something that just couldn't be done without technology in the classroom.

What is your favourite App to use and why?

My go-to app is Quizlet. This app allows you to make flashcards and then teaches and tests you on the keywords using games. It gets students working with people they wouldn't normally work with and has them debating about what the correct answer is.

Does it impact student engagement?

It certainly does. When the students are doing individual work, the content is more tailored to the needs of that student. With such a massive variety of resources available students can now choose their own ability level. Making the personalisation of learning achievable.

Like or it not, students have devices in today's world. It's better to get them into the routine of appropriate use when they are younger than pretending mobile devices don't exist and having students go off the rails in the first year of college.

In five years' time what will teaching in schools be like?

I think computer science could become a large and very popular subject at Leaving Cert level.

I also think we've already seen glimpses of the future. You know those kids who have realised they can learn stuff online and are already better than you at coding? If we can just figure out how to empower every student to follow their interests and teach themselves, school is going to be nothing like it is today.

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