

# Digital Learning & Technology

in Perth & Kinross



## Welcome

We're pleased to announce the launch of this monthly newsletter, sharing news, ideas and inspiration around the use of digital learning tools for staff in all of our learning spaces. We know that technology changes fast and that it can be exhausting looking at the thousands of resources and approaches that can be used, so the aim of this newsletter is to focus on what works and let you investigate and adapt anything you find to suit you and your learners. We hope you find it useful.

## National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy

This September the Scottish Government will be publishing their National Digital Learning Strategy. After consultation with pupils, staff and parents across Scotland there is now a clear drive to leverage the power of digital technologies in our classrooms for the benefit of pupils and teachers. The consultation discussed some key objectives:

- A change in the culture of the use of digital technologies
- Improved confidence in the use of digital technologies by learners, teachers, school leaders and parents
- The promotion of new pedagogies
- Increased and strengthened parental engagement
- Provision of the best possible support for hardware and associated ICT infrastructure

Perth & Kinross Council's Digital Learning & Technology Officer Michael Conlon says that key to delivering on these objectives will be the support for staff and pupils that is provided. "If you look at the research evidence about the impact of digital technologies on attainment and digital literacy skills it is clear that the foundation of any success lies with the confidence and experience of staff in using the tools to support learning. It's not about the technology"



**PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL**

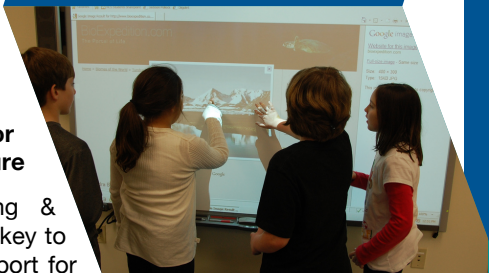
In session 2016/17 Perth & Kinross will be focusing on the use of new Glow tools and

iPads, supporting staff through a mix of CPD sessions, twilights and consultations. Online support will exist through the ECS Learning Hub, where we will host tutorials and teacher stories, and through information channels like this newsletter and Twitter.

More information and contact details are available at the end of this newsletter.

### OECD Report

"..schools have not yet become good enough at the kind of pedagogies that make the most of technology."



"... technology can amplify great teaching but [...] technology cannot replace poor teaching"

2015

## Before you chuck it out the window...

Computer goosed? Printer not working? Software not installed? It's true that sometimes your computer says "No". What you want to do is to get your call logged as soon as possible and keep track of that call.

IT have now provided a self-service portal on ERIC that will let you log your own calls, especially useful if you are never near a phone.

You can access this self-service portal by looking for the **Features** panel on your ERIC home page. Simply select the IT Self Service Portal which will open up a login page where you should use your normal PKC login details to start.

You'll be able to see your current open and closed calls and have access to helpful information and make requests that are not "fault" based.

### Features

- PKC vacancies
- Map room
- Notice-board
- Learn Innovate Grow online (LIGo)
- Council diary
- Complaints form
- Room / minibus booking
- IT Self Service Portal

# Now, about Glow.....groan...

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Fair enough. Glow, for quite a large proportion of teachers and learners here, has had a pretty toxic reputation. Having had such a poor experience with the tools in the past it's not entirely surprising that many stayed away from the product even as it evolved. They moved on to other things, or better things, leaving the diehards plugging away at it.

It's time though to take a look at some of the tools and features offered through Glow and Office365. We really think we have the best range of tools to engage differently in learning and teaching.



OneDrive

First off the starting blocks is OneDrive. This is 1 Terabyte of cloud storage for all your files, images, video and whatever else you can throw at it. It's impossible to give you this kind of space on a school network. Hosting your files in the cloud also means there is no need to be carrying about pens with you as you can access OneDrive from any device that has a browser. On phones and tablets you just need to download the OneDrive app and log in using your Glow credentials. Upload your iPad videos and images and access them on PC.



Online versions of your favourite office apps that you can use on the go, anywhere you can access a browser. The amazing part of this is that files and folders can be shared with other people and each person can work on the same document at the same time - true collaboration, no matter where each person is - at work, home or out and about.

Imagine class projects where pupils can continue to work in their groups out of class. Or developing a resource with another teacher without all the hassle of keeping track of what version you are on.

## MS Office for free



One of the immediate benefits of having access to Glow is the ability to be able to download a free copy of Microsoft Office to up to 5 computers in your home, be they Mac or PC. This is always the most up to date version of the Office suite, in this case 2016.

All you need to do is log in to Glow and click on the Perth & Kinross Launchpad (left) and then scroll down to find the Download Office tile. Click on this and you'll be guided through the processes.



Quickly assess student progress and get feedback with easy-to-create surveys, quizzes and more. It's really easy to set one up and distribute to your pupils who complete it online or on their phone/tablet. Pupils get feedback on their answers and you get to see where the gaps in their learning are. Feedback is such an important part of the classroom and this makes it really easy to do an exit pass or set homework that doesn't require you to mark it. Use your forms as often as you want with different classes and see the results in real time.



Forms



# Office 365



Twig, TigTag and TigTag junior offer hundreds of videos, lesson plans and activities that cover Science, Maths and Human Geography. You can even build in assessments as pupils are watching the videos and gather that information to decide where to move next. Each video is aligned to Curriculum for Excellence and so there is no need to spend time hunting on YouTube for videos that may or may not meet your learning intentions. The videos are short and extremely well made with follow up quizzes and learning materials. Reason enough alone to go to Glow

OneNote Class Notebook is a real game changer for teachers and students. It combines a collaboration space for students and teachers to engage in learning, a content library for all your booklets, worksheets and homeworks and a personal workspace for students where you can see all your class but they just see their own. It really is your classroom organised in a digital area, a complete e-learning space that changes the way you can work with your pupils.

Notebooks are just like an electronic folder with dividers and pages that you can type on, drop in pictures and videos, links to websites and co-authored content. All can be accessed from multiple devices.



Class Notebook

These are only some of the tools available in Office365. Over the next few issues we'll delve a little deeper but look out for CPD opportunities and more information of the Digital Learning Blog.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/pk/digitalpkc/>

Yammer is the social network in Office365. Just like Facebook and Twitter you can post messages, polls, photos and more and start conversations - with other teachers, with your class, or with pupils across schools. There are many national groups you can join and get involved in conversation. A typical use would be to set up a class group where students evaluate each others work or tackle an important issue or question or analyse / capture understanding. Imagine doing this with pupils across different schools. Yammer is also available as an app for your phone and tablet.



Yammer



# App Happy!!

Since the introduction of iPads in our schools in 2013/14 we've seen a lot of fantastic work done by pupils and staff, using different apps in exploring and describing learning in a way that is different and meaningful for them. Each month we'll share ideas about the best apps and how they are being used in the classroom. Equally important however will be **your** stories and experiences and when your school purchases a new iPad it'll come ready with some key apps which we think will get you and your pupils off to a great start. None of them are tied explicitly to a subject area or age range. The only limit in terms of how they can be used is in your creativity. Listed here are some great apps with some suggestions as to how they can be used for all learners.



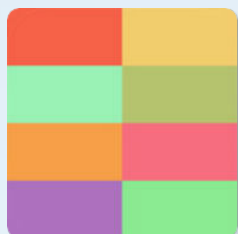
## Book Creator

continues to reveal itself as the king of the apps when it comes to creativity. It does exactly as it says on the tin - it lets you create books - but those books can have videos and voice overs and images and drawings as well as text. The interface is so, so simple and we've seen it used from early years onwards to produce books that act as folios of pupil's best work, books that tell historical accounts, recipe books, how to books with videos, scrapbooks, books on outdoor learning and minibests, learning logs....the list goes on. You can get pupils to create their own book and then join them together, have pupils narrate their own books and save that narration on the page for younger reader...we just love it. This app comes with your iPad and now they have updated it so you can easily create comic books! Save your file as an epub, a pdf or a video. **Comes with council iPad**



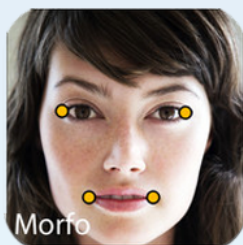
## Puppet Pals HD

sounds like it is a little childish and on the face of it that is the obvious conclusion. It lets you choose puppets, and some backgrounds and then records your voices as you move the puppets around the screen before changing the scene and telling the next part of the story. The power comes in the fact that you can take pictures of yourself or from books or the internet or from right outside your window and cut around them to make your own puppets. That means you can tell almost any story be it a fairy story or your understanding of an important historical event, a story about your home life and your hobbies and pets, an explainer video or a way of getting writers and speakers involved in creative writing and performing. Your final piece of work can be saved as a movie and uploaded to YouTube or saved to your OneDrive in Glow. Again we love this because the only limit to its use is your imagination. **Comes with council iPad**



## Keezy

is an amazing little music app that can be used right from early years. Essentially it is a sound board where each tile can have a different sound loop attached to it. Tapping each tile plays that sound loop. The app comes prebuilt with songs that you use the sound board to mix but the power comes from the fact you can record your own sounds for each tile on the board. This could be real instruments or the pupils own voices or sound recorded in your environment, inside or outside, Then you can have fun playing them in different sequences. You record your own "jams" with the sound board and save them for posterity. We've seen clever uses of this app to let young people hear themselves and their pronunciation or for creating a story that can then be read in different orders. Again imagination is the only barrier. And it's **FREE!**



## Morfo

has a simple premise. Take a picture of a face, real or historical and then bring it to life and make it talk. This is a really fun app because you can use babies, pets, statues and anything else that has a face then narrate their true or imagined story. You can add makeup and hair, raise or lower the voice and make the face have a whole range of emotions. The free version doesn't allow you to export the final video but you can keep it on the device as evidence of learning and to share with the class. We've seen this used in history classes to bring Hitler and Mussolini back to life and one group of pupils visited a museum taking pictures of the faces of statues and in paintings. They then brought these characters to life using morfo after writing a little script for their character. **FREE/ £0.79**

## I Can Animate

is a peerless stop-frame animation tool that couldn't be easier to use. We've found this to be a really motivating tool for individuals and groups. Whether using pen and paper, real objects, plasticine or lego there are a thousand tales to be told using animation and I'll bore you again by telling you we've seen it used at all ages. From describing the water cycle to a dramatic story made with collected autumn leaves, fierce lego men historical battles and a version of The Snowman only in glorious cotton-wool 3D and just as sad! Simply press the button to take a frame and then move your objects whilst being able to see the last position of the items in the frame. Easy. **FREE/ £2.29**



## Teleprompter Pro (Lite)

Public speaking is a great skill and for those schools who make their own news videos or debate teams or for any other reason, using a teleprompter is a great confidence booster and removes that awkward staring



at notes and not looking at the audience. Great for presentations, lectures, broadcasters, filmmakers, musicians & singers or any public speaking. The lite version is free and allows you to enter a script and change the speed and font size as it rolls past your eyes as you are reading out loud. When you add this to an app like Green Screen by Do ink you can make really professional newscasts and other types of video. **FREE/ £4.99 Green Screen by Do Ink £2.29**



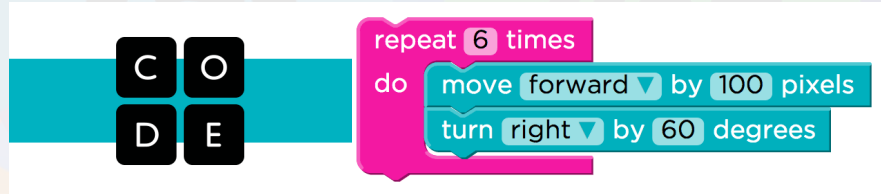
# Around the web

Whilst the iPad and the services you can now access through Glow are fantastic, we shouldn't forget the other resources that are out there for teachers and learners that can develop digital learning and teaching. From fun engaging websites and useful formative assessment tools to quality professional learning opportunities and research, there is plenty out there as a professional for us to get our teeth into.



Common Sense Media is a rich source of materials and professional learning related to digital literacy. They rate apps and websites (as well as movies and other content) for appropriateness and quality but have really great teaching resources for educators in Digital Literacy with associated apps and even an accreditation scheme for teachers. We'll explore this on the blog in future posts but check it out, it's really rich.

[www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org)



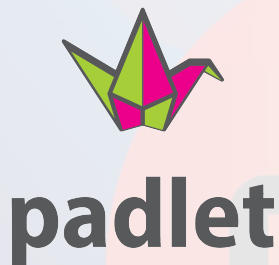
Coding and computational thinking are becoming increasingly well supported, particularly in Primary and from early years onwards. There are excellent resources for activities in this area online. Materials provided by Barefoot Computing and Code.org are changing what is possible in our primaries and secondaries.

Code.org has, as well as the yearly Hour of Code, a large collection of browser based programming activities that involve characters and settings from Minecraft and Star Wars to Frozen and Pokemon. It really is straightforward and has lots of stimulating and engaging videos starring people like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg.

[www.code.org](http://www.code.org)

Barefoot Computing has collected teaching and learning resources for primary computing science that was launched by John Swinney at the Community School of Auchterarder on 5th September.

<http://barefootcas.org.uk/my-curriculum-scotland/>



Padlet is a great way of capturing learning and ideas as well as the possibility to collaborate across classrooms and countries.

Essentially it's a big cork board where you can stick up comments pictures and links. You can use the PC or do it through a tablet or phone but everything that is put on the board can be seen by everyone else so it's great as a formative assessment tool, peer review tool and much more. Everything happens in real time so once it's posted it's up on the screen. We've seen it used as an exit pass system that can be stored and reflected in the the class next period or collecting responses to a stimulus from a novel. We'll soon be using it at the next Headteacher conference to gather the views of leaders there on different topics.

Check it out at

<https://padlet.com/>

## Computer Aided Design

Getting into the maker-makey world in Primary can be tricky - so many of the apps that are used are the full sized professional apps. There are a few other apps that are pretty robust - google sketch for example - but this online CAD software from Autodesk is a stripped down but very powerful tool that lets young learners develop an understanding of computer aided design which can be the starting point for interest in engineering and problem solving. Your design can also be sent to a 3D-printer which brings an added dimension - no pun intended.

Find out more at

[www.tinkercad.com](http://www.tinkercad.com)





The progress we'll make in developing Digital Learning and Teaching in Perth & Kinross will be wholly determined by the community we develop and the stories we share with each other about how we are using the tools at our disposal and pupil engagement with them.

Please visit the blog, follow twitter and join the "PKC Digital Learning" Yammer group in Glow and share with us your experience.

Our blog can be found from the ECS Learning Hub

<http://www.ecslearninghub.org.uk/>

or directly at

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/pk/digitalpkc/>

Join the Yammer group by searching in Yammer for

PKC Digital Learning

Solve your glow problems at

[glowadmin@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:glowadmin@pkc.gov.uk)

