ICT in the Classroom

Introduction

In this edition you will find some resources that many of you may already be using in the classroom such as VLC Media Player, Dropbox.com and Audacity.

After receiving some great feedback from users I have included a larger section on iPhone & iPad applications, some of which are subject specific and some of which are for general use in the classroom. Next month I hope to have a dedicated section to using ICT with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) students. If you have any experience in this area I would like to hear some of the software's, applications and programs you are using.

Regards,

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In a previous issue I had a section covering Prezi, this time I am highlighting another alternative presentation software for those of you that may be bored with PowerPoint. Empreer allows users with limited technology/ICT skills to create rich media presentations in just minutes.
www.empressr.com

Comic Builder is a neat FREE online resource which allows you and your students to create imaginative stories. The comic builder is developed by LEGO, a company almost everyone is familiar with. This is a great way to engage students in ICT while explaining an English story, a Geographical catastrophe or perhaps a Historical occasion etc.. However note that you do have to register before you can begin making online comics   **www.city.lego.com**

Monthly Pick

Codecademy

Although this will not be relevant to all teachers, I do find this to be a most valuable resource both inside and outside the classroom. It is widely accepted that learning how to code or understanding the concept of coding is a vital skill which we should teach at some stage to our students. Two of the regular problems which occur here are often:

1. The teachers lack of coding knowledge.
2. The class timetable doesn't allow for such classes.

In this case Codecademy (and similar sites such as www.w3schools.com can take the pressure off teachers and provide the platform for students to learn coding and programming in a solo or group environment. In Codecademy you have the option to learn various languages which include:

- JavaScript
- Python
- Ruby
- HTML (Web Design)
- Jquery

The site presents the learning of these languages in a task format which gives the element of level completion/a game.

www.codecademy.com

Most of us have come across the error screen when Windows Media Player or similar won't play our video clip in front of the class, or else it will play but there's no sound! In that case VLC media player which supports many audio and video compression methods and file formats is your solution. VLC includes a large number of decoding and encoding libraries as standard.   **www.videolan.org**

Gone are the days that just the tech savvy teachers dabbled with new technologies and were brave enough to bring them into the classroom. In my own school I see language teachers using programmes such as Audacity to record conversations. I myself use it for digital media where thirteen year olds create voiceovers for their stop motion animation movies. This FREE software is a fantastic resource which is simple to use and edit within the classroom. Apart from a standard microphone no extra equipment is required.   **www.audacity.sourceforge.net**

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Not exactly a resource but for those of you interested in developing 21st Century skills, you can avail of this FREE online course offered by Stanford University **https://venturelab.stanford.edu/education**

With many teachers resources today being in digital format we need somewhere to easily access them and to easily share them with our colleagues. Although there are many solutions to this the number of teachers now using Dropbox.com as a file storing and file sharing resource is increasing. You get 2GB free storage upon sign up + the ability to sync across all your devices.   **www.dropbox.com**

Studyclix.ie is a relatively new Irish based website for students and teachers. The website breaks down each subject into topics and gives all past questions and marking schemes on that particular chosen topic. Like most items in the eBulletin, Studyclix.ie is a free resource and currently has in the region of 25,000 users per month. The site was developed with the simple aim of making examination study easier for students and teachers.   **www.studyclix.ie**

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6 useful iPhone & iPad Apps to use and checkout for the Classroom

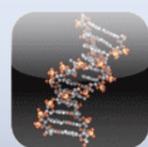**SlideShark**   **TED**   **Molecules**   **On This Day**   **Algebra Your Teacher**   **App Shopper**

- **SlideShark** allows you to upload your PowerPoint files on SlideShark.com and display them on your iPad/iPhone
- **TED** will be featured in more detail in issue 6, for now you can investigate the inspiring talks from various categories
- **Molecules** is one for the science teacher and students, It's FREE and allows you to build your own structures beautifully.

- **On This Day** is a nice app for the history enthusiast. It tells you numerous events that happened on this day in the past
- **Algebra** by YourTeacher.com provides students with short mathematic algebra videos, a simple idea but effective.
- If you are not sure what App is for you try **AppShopper**. It allows you define the most popular apps by category and price.