



The
Edtech
50
2018

A celebration of the
people, products and projects
shaping Education Technology
across the UK



Celebration
Ambition
Inspiration

There are so many reasons to be optimistic about the possibilities for technology across education. Edtech is increasingly supporting improved outcomes across England and internationally, and in my short time as Secretary of State for Education I have already seen how it can support and transform education at every step of the journey.

Technology offers educators a wealth of opportunities to support effective and proven teaching practices as well as increased support for themselves, their institutions, and their students. However, we know it can sometimes be difficult to implement new technology or gain access to the evidence and equipment educators need. The benefits of digital technology are often seen as innovation that only digital experts can achieve, but that shouldn't be the case. This is why the sector must come together to support this change.

The work of inspirational leaders across the sector who are working tirelessly to support education, will be fundamental in ensuring the wider realisation of the opportunities presented by technology to support improvements across the breadth of our education system.

I welcome this new initiative to highlight and celebrate many of the people, products and projects that have most impacted education.

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State for Education



Department
for Education

Welcome to the Edtech 50

The Edtech 50 is a celebration of the people, products and projects shaping this dynamic and growing sector across the UK.

The Government's Digital Strategy, published in February 2017, said this about our sector:

“Education technology is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, accounting for 4% of all digital companies, and UK businesses have become world leaders in developing innovative new technologies for schools. The potential benefits when implemented correctly are considerable, both in teaching and in school administration. We want to make sure our pupils, their parents and teachers are able to make use of these opportunities.”

The Edtech 50 would not have been possible without our superb and distinguished judging panel that include: **Mark Anderson** (ICT Evangelist), **Sky Caves**, (Basingstoke College of Technology), **Sherry Coutu** (Entrepreneur and Investor), **Ian Fordham** (Microsoft UK), **Steve Frampton** (Portsmouth College), **Martin Hamilton** (Jisc), **Claire Price** (Chepstow School), **Dan Sandhu** (Entrepreneur and Investor), **Shahneila Saeed** (UKIE), **Bukky Yusuf** (Teacher), **Mark Martin** (Educator), **Peter O'Rourke** (University of Suffolk) and **Chair: Ty Goddard** (Education Foundation and Edtech UK).

Edtech UK is a strategic body, established by the Education Foundation, to help accelerate the growth of the UK's education technology sector across the UK and globally. Our reports, strategic policy work, lobbying, community events and networks help to connect and nurture this sector.

We're confident that our work and that of others will see a powerful and joined up approach across Government. The Department for Education's (DfE) new edtech team have been energetic in communicating the benefits of edtech. There is positive work on digital skills at DCMS with recent announcements in the budget. The welcome Industrial Strategy from DBEIS puts emphasis on Future Sectors. Barriers to the growth of the education and learning technology sector also need to be removed to accelerate the education technology economy here at home and for our UK exports with DIT.

The Edtech 50 has been chosen from a mixture of public nominations and the insight of our judging panel. It has been a challenging and exciting process. Such was the scale, quality and richness of nomination that this celebration contains fifty sections; but has, as you will read, over fifty mentions of people, products and projects. It is not quite an Edtech 100 – maybe next year – but we have also included important judges' commendations and 'ones to note' across all sections.

I hope that the Edtech 50 helps us all celebrate a wonderful sector, recognise too the benefits of education technology and acknowledge the economic advantages of the growing edtech sector to the UK economy.

Thanks to the Education Foundation team, including Joy Voysey and particularly, Russ Darbon who managed this project. And thank you to Paul Feldman and the team, whose support for UK education technology and the Edtech 50 in particular has been important. Edtech UK in partnership with Jisc are working together to support and develop the British education technology sector.

Someone said to me, the #Edtech50 is like a love letter to the sector. And like all letters we may have left things out or even words unsaid – as chair of the judging panel those oversights are mine.

Ty Goddard

Director, Education Foundation
Edtech UK

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[@EdnFoundation](https://www.ednfoundation.org)
[@EdtechukHQ](https://www.edtechuk.org)



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Edtech 50 – the best of the UK's excellent education technology people, products and projects, selected by a judging panel of expert educators and industry leaders.

When done right, edtech has the potential to transform lives for the better, helping people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their full potential, and helping us to build the digital skills base that will be so critical to the UK's global competitiveness in the years to come.

At Jisc we are very excited about sharing examples of good practice in education technology, working with edtech startups to accelerate their businesses, and supporting projects that are exploring innovative uses of edtech. The Edtech 50 show us how education technology can be a catalytic force for digital innovation in teaching and learning in partnership and collaboration with teachers and learners.

Paul Feldman

CEO, Jisc

[@jisc](https://www.jisc.ac.uk)

About Jisc

Jisc provides digital technology and resources to the UK's higher education, further education and skills sectors. They are seeking to make the UK the most digitally advanced education and research nation in the world.

Jisc plays a pivotal role in the development, adoption and use of technology by UK universities and colleges. They put students at the heart of everything they do to deliver technology solutions for teaching and learning, making their experience better.

The crown jewel of Jisc's support is Janet, a secure, state-of-the-art network infrastructure that they own, manage and operate, which spans all four nations of the UK.



The Judges

The Judges



Mark Anderson

[@ICTEvangelist](#)

Former school leader with more than twenty years of experience in the classroom and leading successful faculty departments. Led on the teaching and learning and delivery on one of the earliest 1:1 rollouts at Clevedon School.

Mark is a popular keynote speaker, strategic consultant and trainer. He is a passionate advocate for the purposeful use of technology linked to pedagogy.

With more than two decades of classroom experience, he recognises the power and importance of student voice in developing sound practice. An Apple Distinguished Educator, Google Certified Innovator, Microsoft Certified Educator and expert in mobile learning and associated pedagogies.



Sky Caves

[@SkyCaves19](#)

Sky is a Learning Technology Apprentice at Basingstoke College of Technology working as a part of the in-house digital team, BCoT Digital, to curate, research, train and assist with the implementation of digital tools throughout the college. She also works closely with Specialist Provision and, as of this year, has been curating self-directed learning resources for our Level 1 Future Pathways students' blended learning.



Sherry Coutu

[@scoutu](#)

Sherry Coutu is a former CEO and angel investor. She chairs Founders4Schools and is a non-executive member of Cambridge University (Finance Board), Cambridge Assessment, Cambridge University Press and

a NED of Zoopla and the London Stock Exchange Group. She also serves on the Advisory Board of LinkedIn.com.

Philanthropically, she supports the Prince's Trust, the Crick Institute and serves on the Harvard Business School European Advisory Council. Sherry was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to entrepreneurship in the New Year's Honours List 2013, author of 'The Scale-up Report' on UK economic growth.

Ian Fordham

[@ianfordham](#)

Ian Fordham is Director of Education of Microsoft and leads their work with schools, colleges, universities and other learning institutions across the UK. He was formerly CEO of Edtech UK and Co-founder of The Education Foundation, worked for and advised a number of national education charities and is a former teacher.

Steve Frampton MBE

Since 2005, Steve has been Principal of Portsmouth College. Winner of the AoC Beacon for Collaboration. The director of several local community charities, including Business South, PiTC (community arm of Portsmouth Football Club), President of Portsmouth D o E and Chair of King Richards School Trust, he was recently appointed to the national board of Association of Colleges, national AoC Sport Board, and the ETF (PSPEP). 2016 saw Steve and the college featured in the business and leadership bestseller by Chris Lewis "Too Fast to Think". Aptly christened "The BFG" within these pages, a reputation for innovation and creative thinking was further reinforced.



2017 saw Steve's extensive career recognised with the awarding of a MBE for Services to Education.

Ty Goddard

[@ty_goddard](#)

Ty Goddard is the Director of the Education Foundation and Edtech UK – a new strategic body launched in 2015 to accelerate the edtech sector in Britain and globally. He is recognised as one of the UK's leading experts on education reform and is a regular commentator on the future of education in the media.

Ty worked as an adviser to the Department for Education on Extended Schools and was Founder and Director of the British Council for School Environments; Managing Director of the award winning design company School Works; and Strategic Community Manager at Brighton and Hove City Council.

Before this he was an elected Chair of Education at Lambeth Council and worked as the UK and European Political Advisor for the NSPCC; National Campaigns Co-ordinator for SCOPE. He was voted onto the Evening Standard 1,000 most influential people in London list over three years and is also a Tech London Advocate.

Martin Hamilton

[@martin_hamilton](#)

Martin Hamilton is a Futurist for education technology charity Jisc. He leads the Future and Emerging Technologies team, which looks at research and education applications of new technologies such as virtual and augmented reality and brain computer interfaces. Martin is particularly interested in the potential of education technology to improve retention and outcomes, and to support and transform teaching and learning.

Mark Martin

[@urban_teacher](#)

Mark Martin is recognised for his insight and passion for education and technology. He has taught ICT for over 10 years and has become an expert in helping teachers and schools use technology to improve teaching and learning. Mark is an international speaker travelling to different countries inspiring educators to become better facilitators. Also Mark is actively involved in the UK tech sector, supporting tech companies and promoting cultural diversity within organisations.

Peter O'Rourke

[@ruairc_com](#)

Director of IT at the University of Suffolk. Peter is an active contributor to the wider technology landscape in Higher Education with roles on the Executive Committee of UCISA (ucisa.ac.uk) and as its representative on the HESA Data Futures Programme Board. Peter is a regular blogger and contributor to industry and sector events.

In a career spanning the arrival of the green screen VDU in Mainframe computer rooms and 1-2-1 "computer" schemes in schools, colleges and universities, Peter has worked in both the private and public sectors, with a focus on the application of technology as opposed to the technology itself. Peter believes that partnership, underpinned by knowledge exchange, between education and industry is vital to driving digital innovation.

Peter is a member of the British Computer Society (MBCS), a school governor, a trustee of the Creative Computing Club Charitable Foundation. Interested in photography and is a Liverpool FC supporter.



Claire Price

[@chepstowhead](#)

Claire has been Headteacher of Chepstow School since 2012. During this time, student outcomes have risen significantly. Prior to this post, she was Vice Principal of a large inner city comprehensive school in the South West which was judged outstanding in 2011. Claire is an advisor for the Education Foundation, and led a Policy Forum for Wales last summer with the Foundation. Chair of the LA Strategic Partnership Group, which is a multi-agency team supporting vulnerable children, young people and families. Member of the EAS Headteacher Strategy group.

In addition to these roles, I am the leader for WomenEd in Wales, a DfE Women's Coaching Pledge coach and a Lead Mentor for the newly-established Chartered Teacher Programme.

Shahneila Saeed

[@Shahneila1](#)

With over 20 years of experience in Computing education, Shahneila has seen the changes to the computing curriculum from many perspectives. As a teacher and Head of Department she led her department's transition to computing several years ahead of government changes. As a founding Computing At School Board Member she helped develop the Computing Programmes of Study. In 2014 Shahneila joined Ukie (UK Interactive Entertainment Association) to become Head of Education and Director for the Digital Schoolhouse programme. Author of Hacking the Curriculum: Creative Computing and the Power of Play, Shahneila's work around using play-based learning to teach computing in the Digital Schoolhouse programme continues to receive increasing recognition.

Dan Sandhu

[@dansandhu](#)

Dan has worked extensively in Skills, Education and Education Technology in the UK, US, Europe, Australia, Canada and India as an investor, executive, mentor and advisor. After stints at PwC and Mitsui, Dan co-founded a London based technology outsourcing business, backed by venture capital, which grew, to a team of 2,500 across Europe.

Dan seed funded Youth4work, which is a vocationally focused assessment platform. He was Chairman and CEO of Digital Assess, recently sold, following an operational and capital restructure over 18 months.

Dan was recently voted as one of Education Technology's most influential leaders globally. He is a regular speaker at education technology forums and has authored numerous articles.

Bukky Yusuf

[@rondelle10_b](#)

Bukky Yusuf is a Secondary Science teacher, consultant and qualified coach. She has spent over a decade in London schools, teaching Science.

Bukky has been a leader in the field of educator professional development and educational technology training.

Bukky uses her experience with professional development, technology integration and effective pedagogical strategies to help teachers adopt mobile learning environments that aid in class and out of hours learning. She is an innovator in 1:1 classroom implementation.

Bukky serves as an Education Board member of Innovate My School.





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People

Naimish Gohil

www.showmyhomework.com
@Team_Satchel

Founder and CEO of edtech firm, Satchel, based in Stratford, London Borough of Newham. Naimish quit teaching and began coding to create a product that made the homework process better. Starting out with a team of three, Satchel is now a business of 50 people, with its technology used by 1,500 schools in 23 countries. Its flagship app, Show My Homework, enables teachers to manage homework efficiently, while appealing to students (and parents) for its ability to be accessed on their personal platforms. Recent developments: content delivery, with education publishers, Collins, and an online tutoring service.

Vikki Liogier

www.bdigifab.com
@vikkilliogier

Vikki Liogier, recently appointed, Head of Learning Technologies at the Education and Training Foundation. Founded her own consultancy, BdiGIFAB. As Head of Digital, Literacy, Voice and Innovation at Epping Forest College, she and her team transformed the teaching and learning environment. The pioneering use of Digital Voice Experts (DVX) as digital ambassadors gained national recognition. Vikki has been part of Jisc's Change Agents Network initiative. 'An innovator of numerous and fantastic projects, a true visionary with learners' best interests at heart,' says judge Sky Caves.

Sam Chaudhary

www.classdojo.com
@samchaudhary_
@ClassDojo

San Francisco based, British co-founder with Liam Don of ClassDojo – positive behaviour management software – growing and popular education technology used by over 35 million teachers, parents and students in over 90% of US schools, and 180 other countries. Ty Goddard, Edtech UK, says, "To visit and talk with Sam and his team is to hear the growth story of UK education technology, in all its twists and turns to becoming a world leader."

Duncan Wilson

www.edukey.co.uk
@Classcharts

Duncan was a secondary school teacher for 16 years and founded EduKey, now part of TES, in 2010 with Gintas Sasnauskas. Key products include, Provision Map, designed to assist SEN/ALN Co-ordinators with reviews of interventions and Class Charts providing data rich seating charts. Based in Fishguard, West Wales, Edukey employs local people, often ex-students and Duncan is generous with his time, when not out on the water, to build the edtech sector across Wales and beyond.

Martin McKay

www.texthelp.com/en-gb/
@texthelp

Founded Texthelp, a Northern Ireland global edtech assistive technology success story, providing literacy support to students and educators in schools, colleges and universities. Martin was awarded a well-deserved Lifetime achievement award from the International Dyslexia Association in 2017 which also shows the power of the product to support people with learning difficulties, dyslexia or visual impairments, as well as a range of English Language Learners.



Dr Ross Parry

@rossparry

Appointed in late 2016 as the University of Leicester's Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Digital) to lead the institution's 'digital by default' approach. This 'whole system' method aims to ensure that technology is used to enhance learning and teaching, facilitate innovative research, communicate better and improve efficiency in management and administration activities. There is an energy and frankness about Ross that will help unlock some of the digital challenges across higher education. Academic, author, researcher and winner in 2012, '14 and '17 of the Students' Union 'superstars' and 'I Love My Academic' Awards, Ross has also chaired the Museums Computer Group.

Bethany Koby

www.techwillsaveus.com
@bethanykoby

Bethany is Chief Executive and the co-founder, with Daniel Hirschmann, of Technology Will Save Us. Creating STEM play experiences through digital and physical toys that support young people to learn about technology and coding. Bethany is generous with her time, articulate and a successful edtech business-builder and creator.

Vivi Friedgut

@ViviFriedgut

Realising that too many people are slaves to their debt instead of masters of their money, Vivi Friedgut founded Blackbullion.com by building on her finance-related presentations on campus across the UK. Within two years, Viv headed up an online and inter-active education platform which provides impactful and effective financial education in partnership with 24 universities. In the words of one of our esteemed judges: "Yep, it kicks ass!"



The Maths x 5

Andrew Hall

sumdog.com

@AndySumdog

Colin Hegarty

hegartymaths.com

@hegartymaths

Bruno Reddy

mrreddy.com/blog

@MrReddyMaths

Tom Minor and Nicola Chilman

doodlemaths.com

@DoodleMaths

We may not need to visit Singapore for maths mastery, if these maths edtech heroes succeed. Andrew from Edinburgh-based, Sumdog, to global teacher prize-nominated Colin Hegarty, to Bath-based, Tom and Nicola from Doodle Maths, to guitar-rocking, Times Tables, Bruno; these are the people helping to power the Maths UK revival.

Katy Potts

@katypotts

Katy Potts has worked for Islington Council since 1999, developing digital education services to schools and families. She is responsible for a highly subscribed service in Islington and across London, in partnership with clusters of lead schools, teachers and digital leader pupils. Works closely with key technology and education organisations, to promote and share good practice at events hosted in Tech City or at the Emirates (the venue for Islington Computing Celebration, 2018). She specialises in Online Safety, sits on the UK Safer Internet Centre Advisory Board and last year was announced as London's Local Champion 2017. Spear-headed introduction of 'Kids Judge' Bett event.



James Kieft

www.james-thinks-its-worth-a-look.blogspot.co.uk
[@james_kieft](https://twitter.com/james_kieft)

James has worked as a teacher across Further and Higher Education for over 15 years and is now Group Learning and Development Manager at Activate Learning, overseeing the development of teaching staff through their Beacon award-winning staff development programme – Pass it On. A joint runner up in the ALT Learning Technologist of the Year Award in 2014. James Kieft hosts his own website and blog. Judge Sky Cave comments: “His blog is the first go-to resource I recommend to anybody starting their journey on exploring educational technology... making Ed Tech accessible to all, including easy access for students with learning support needs.”

Paul Rose

www.youteachme.co.uk
[@YouTeachMe](https://twitter.com/YouTeachMe)

Founded YouTeachMe in 2012 as a serving head teacher. Paul's enthusiasm, plus an excellent product, has allowed many schools to improve. This system disseminates good practice and allows a wide community of children and adults access to make use of teaching videos to promote learning. The needs of SEND students, not always addressed within Ed Tech, are factored in, including the creation of SEN specific video-based materials to enhance learning and up-skill staff. Succinct comment from panel judge, Steve Frampton MBE, Principal Portsmouth College: “It works!”

The Funders – Six of the Best

Richard Taylor

mediataylor.com

[@dick_taylor](https://twitter.com/dick_taylor)

Bhav Singh

sandboxandco.com

Saul Klein OBE

localglobe.blogspot.co.uk

Omidyar Network

omidyar.com

Founders Factory

Co-founder, Brent Hoberman

foundersfactory.com

[@brenthoberman](https://twitter.com/brenthoberman)

Emerge Education

www.emerge.education

[@emergelab](https://twitter.com/emergelab)

There's a developing investor eco-system exploring different methods to pump prime, co-own and accelerate our UK edtech businesses. Dick Taylor has long supported early UK edtech and is recognised for his early stage investment. Bhav Singh, from Sandbox has invested into large Edutainment deals and Founders Factory builds and scales early stage companies in-house. Saul Klein, now a partner of LocalGlobe has invested, co-founded and supported UK education technology extensively and the team at Omidyar Network grow in reputation for sound values and investment. Emerge Education play a role with an edtech accelerator, partnering with Jisc on the Edtech Launchpad – a seed fund in collaboration with 'venture partners' (investors). Also run Edspace, a dedicated co-working space for the education community.

**Melissa Highton**

thinking.is.ed.ac.uk/melissa/
[@HoneybHighton](https://twitter.com/HoneybHighton)

Melissa is Assistant Principal for Online Learning at Edinburgh University and Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Services. Her particular interests include digital skills, 21st century curricula, Open Educational Resources and research-led teaching and online media. A vocal champion of open education, Melissa was instrumental in the University of Oxford's podcasts project prior to moving to Edinburgh. This project resulted in over 21 million podcast downloads via Apple's iTunes.

Laura Paterson

[@Sci_TechEDU](https://twitter.com/Sci_TechEDU)

Digital leader/ schools ICT Skills trainer and Microsoft Certified Educated for Fife Council and schools across Fife. Builds the tech community with warmth.

Bertie Hubbard

www.mytutor.co.uk

[@Bertie_Hubbard](https://twitter.com/Bertie_Hubbard)

[@MyTutor](https://twitter.com/MyTutor)

Co-founder with James Grant, and CEO at MyTutorWeb. Connects school pupils to university students from the Russell Group of universities for high impact one-to-one tuition via a live online learning space, equipped with live video and interactive whiteboard. Sessions recorded for future reference. Nominated with co-founder, James Grant for 'Forbes 30 under 30 Europe Social Entrepreneurs 2018.'

The Educators x 11

Kellie Williams

[@kellie_digital](https://twitter.com/kellie_digital)

Kellie, is a 'teacher geek' passionate about digital learning.' This committed educator is a digital schools pioneer for the Welsh Government and teaches at Cornist Park Primary School. Kellie is a GwE (bilingual School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales) Digital Leader. [@GwEDigital](https://twitter.com/GwEDigital) – Cefnogi addysgu a dysgu drwy ddefnyddio technoleg ddiigidol yng Ngogledd Cymru.

José Picardo

[@josepicardo](https://twitter.com/josepicardo)

Deputy Head teacher at Hampshire Collegiate School, José's main interests include combining pedagogy, curriculum and technology to produce great teaching and learning. Maintains own website and his new book, *Using Technology in the Classroom*, has just been published by Bloomsbury.

Osi Ejiofor

www.osistechtips.com

[@osistechtips](https://twitter.com/osistechtips)

Assistant head, teacher of STEM and Founder of Osi's Tech Tips. Osi has taught in Computing and ICT for over 7 years across three London boroughs, developing the use of technology across Primary Education. His YouTube channel provides people with simple tech tips to help them use features of their devices that are readily available and free. As judge Mark Martin said, “Osi is a visionary person who is always pushing for innovation within the education sector”.

Ian Phillips

www.iscdigital.co.uk

[@lanHabs](https://twitter.com/lanHabs)

[@Habsboys](https://twitter.com/Habsboys)

Assistant Head and Director Computing and ICT at The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. Ian is chair and a catalyst,



alongside Independent School Council member associations, of the Independent Schools Digital Strategy Group formed in 2007. He is also part of the Intel visionary network. Welshman abroad.

Dom Norrish

www.educatetto1.org
[@domnorrish](https://twitter.com/domnorrish)

Dom is the Group Director of Technology for United Learning, Multi-Academy Trust with 60 schools across the UK. Dom writes, shares and talks good sense on learning technology. He would probably dislike the word thought leader.

Abbie Davies

holy-name-catholic-primary-school.j2bloggy.com

In West Wales, she has empowered pupils across her school to own their own digital learning, to collaborate with peers far and wide and inspire digital learners of all ages to take that first/next step. Good focus on Welsh language learning. Abbie's superpower: turning digiphobes into digiphiles.

Abdul Chohan

[@abdulchohan](https://twitter.com/abdulchohan)

Co-founder of The Olive Tree Free School, Former CEO at Essa Foundation Academies Trust (itunes.com/essalearning), Director of ThinkSimple Ltd, Distinguished Educator. Based in Bolton, UK

Ollie Bray

www.kingussiehigh.org.uk
[@KingussieHigh](https://twitter.com/KingussieHigh)

Ollie is Head Teacher at Kingussie High School – a school with traditional values but a modern approach – in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Ollie and his team have expanded the curriculum – to help teach and motivate students and develop work readiness. He says, he's a 'bit of a traditionalist' and sees the school's rich digital ethos

as underpinning these changes. Ollie presents and shares their journey with frankness and warmth.

Peter Rafferty

www.raff.creativeblogs.net
[@raff31](https://twitter.com/raff31)

Peter is a teacher, #IntelVisionary and #GoogleCertified educator. Peter is a global educator living in Maghull and ranges across Europe, USA and South Africa.

Carol Allen

[@caroljallen](https://twitter.com/caroljallen)

Advisory Teacher ICT and Inclusion, formerly at North Tyneside Council, having taught since 1980 in both mainstream, primary and high, and schools for students with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties. Her work centres on creative use of technology to support communication.

Deborah Kelsey Millar

www.learningwheel.co.uk
[@DebKellsey](https://twitter.com/DebKellsey)

Deborah has thirty years' experience, from teaching to digital leadership roles in further and higher education, recently joining Grimsby Institute as Group Director for Digital Learning Technology. She also founded Digi Pals, giving students the opportunity to influence digital strategy and vision, and created the well regarded LearningWheel model of digital pedagogy.



Products

SpyQuest

www.spy-quest.com
[@SpyQuest](https://twitter.com/SpyQuest)

Unique. Scottish. Online interactive gaming concept, built on sound principles for all primary and secondary schools. SpyQuest is an interactive A.R. game and book series. Developed by David Goutcher, author, games developer, entrepreneur. Warning! Covert learning may take place on a range of topics. Preparing to offer free games to thousands of schools. Edtech = reading.

Mindful Education

mindful-education.co.uk
[@Mindful_Edu_UK](https://twitter.com/Mindful_Edu_UK)

Learning platform by Mindful Education, which facilitates active learning, with online testing and analytics... allowing a blended approach to learning within a range of study options, such as the areas of accountancy and law. Staff at Mindful Education work closely with colleges, both to guide them through change and design new and innovative media-rich. Mindful Education aims to offer a rich learning experience, combined with flexible options for study.

Night Zookeeper

www.nightzookeeper.com
[@nightzookeeper](https://twitter.com/nightzookeeper)

A fabulous adventure of a digital learning tool that inspires writing through competitions, fun and the power of story. Lesson plans, creativity, drawings and the zookeeper community. And books and whispering giraffes too, obviously.



SAM Labs STEAM Kit

uk.samlabs.com
[@samlab](https://twitter.com/samlab)

The SAM Labs STEAM Kit was developed by educators and engineers. Incorporating cross-curricula lesson plans, intuitive visual flow-based software and wireless electronic blocks, the STEAM Kit empowers teachers and engages every student to discover the fun in coding and creating. SAM Labs places a strong emphasis on teacher training, professional development and learning outcomes. Supports the tech-hesitant teacher, with curriculum-based lesson plans and hands-on educator support.

now>press>play

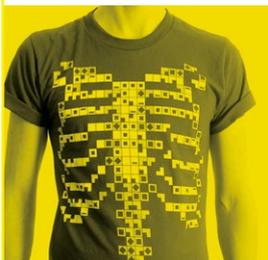
nowpressplay.co.uk
[@nowpressplay](https://twitter.com/nowpressplay)

An award winning social enterprise which fuses wireless technology, drama and sound to create educational experiences that bring the school curriculum to life. Founded in 2012 by three friends, who love learning but hate sitting down. They discovered they weren't alone. So the three got together to create an educational resource that uses sound, story and movement to engage all children.

Curiscope

curiscope.com
[@ed_barton](https://twitter.com/ed_barton)

Curiscope founded in 2016, CEO, Ed Barton, is carefully crafting new experiences whether it be seeing inside the body or below the sea. The Virtuali-Tee is a 'magic lens' of a T-shirt into another world: a guided tour inside the body. Either use a phone app or VR goggles to discover under your skin. Developed by Curiscope and published by Vive Studios, the underwater mission, Operation Apex, is a joyous follow up. Create bait, scan the reefs and explore the underwater world.



Clicker7 – Crick Software

cricksoft.com
[@Cricksoft](https://twitter.com/Cricksoft)

Clicker7, developed by Northampton based, Crick software, established by ex-teacher John Crick in 1993. Clicker7 is useful and thoughtful literacy support software for young people from four upwards. Creates differentiated speaking, listening, reading and writing activities easily for all pupils. The introduction of a speech bubble allows voice notes and the ability to keep playing back supports memory retention too. Inclusion supports everyone.

Raspberry Pi Zero

www.raspberrypi.org/products/raspberry-pi-zero/
[@Raspberry_Pi](https://twitter.com/Raspberry_Pi)

Smaller version of Raspberry Pi, with twice the utility, affordable enough for any project. Further iteration (Raspberry Pi Zero W) launched in February 2017 with added wireless LAN and Bluetooth connectivity. Part of the Raspberry Pi family of devices whose sales figures make them the third best-selling general computer in the world.

VEO

www.veo-group.com
[@VEO_app](https://twitter.com/VEO_app)

VEO is a video enhanced observation tool for Education and a spin out from Newcastle University. Developed in collaboration with schools and teachers to produce a smart and easy to use system to help educators improve quality, performance and share good practice. Led by Paul Millar and Jon Haines since 2013, Newcastle's VEO is gaining lots of love and not just from educators, but also across clinical and corporate training.

Micro:bit

www.microbit.org
[@microbit_edu](https://twitter.com/microbit_edu)

Pocket-sized micro computer with motion detection, a built-in compass and Bluetooth. Given free to every child in year 7 across UK in 2016. More recent global focus, aiming to reach 100 million people with upgraded software. Since 2016 the Micro:bit Educational Foundation has been the responsible agency for Micro:bit. It is a UK based but redistributes the bulk of any surplus money generated into providing free devices to exceptional micro:bit educational programmes across the globe. Big thanks to the BBC and partners.

FutureLearn

www.futurelearn.com
[@FutureLearn](https://twitter.com/FutureLearn)

As we judge the Edtech 50, over 7million people are learning together with FutureLearn in more than 190 countries. Created by The Open University, this British success story facilitates access to hundreds of free online courses: from Language and Culture to Business and Management; Science and Technology to Health and Psychology. Nearly 150 top universities and specialist organisations are partners that design and curate content for each online course. And we didn't even mention the word MOOC.

Firefly

fireflylearning.com

Created by two students while studying for GCSEs, Firefly is an online learning tool that brings together teachers, students and parents. Teachers can quickly plan lessons and homework, to which students can respond instantly on any device. The parent app enables parents to be engaged and kept in the loop. Ease of use, time and money



saving have already been demonstrated, and success further reflected in a £4.5 million Series A investment, the largest to date for an edtech company. Their board is chaired by Howard Bell, strategic business leader.

Kano

kano.me
[@TeamKano](https://twitter.com/TeamKano)

Inspired by a six year old who wanted to make a computer, providing it was as 'simple and as fun as Lego', Kano aims to give young people (and the young at heart) a simple, fun way to make and play with technology, and take control of the world around them. Thanks to Kano, you can build your own computer, learn code, plus make art, games and music. Adults and kids of all ages have built their first computers, created flower time-lapses, designed weather stations... as a result of using Kano.

GIS 4 Schools – Esri UK

schools.esriuk.com
[@GIS4Schools](https://twitter.com/GIS4Schools)

ArcGIS Online is a 'Geo-Tech' treasure trove that is free for all UK schools. A Web based Geographic Information System (WebGIS) that lets you discover, visualise, question, analyse, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends from a local to global scale. ArcGIS Online for Schools is a cloud-based mapping platform that makes teaching and learning with GIS easy. Jason Sawle from Esri UK is on a map-heaven mission to help pupils understand the world around them and their place in it. With Web Apps like the 'Living Atlas' and 'Storymaps' Esri make it easy to use real data and tell stories that matter.

Little Bridge

www.littlebridge.com
[@Little_Bridge](https://twitter.com/Little_Bridge)

A platform of online English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) providing a complete method for teaching English to primary students (including refugee children and other learners) from all around the world. Carefully structured, motivating activities (covering all 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing), are provided that are really fun to do. The children play games, see the progress they are making – and engage in conversations in English with young learners globally in the safe and fully-moderated community 'DigiPals' space.

Kortext

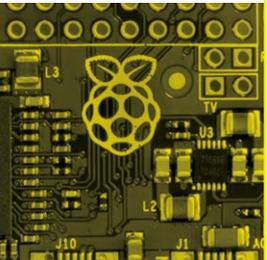
kortext.com
[@Kortext1](https://twitter.com/Kortext1)

Founded in 2013 by James Gray and has become a leading learning platform and supplier of digital textbooks. Working with over 1,000 publishers including market leaders, it supplies over 500,000 ebooks to millions of students worldwide. Based in Bournemouth, it has a global reach from Canada to Australia. Kortext is available on all major device platforms including iOS, Android, Mac and Windows.

Minecraft Edu

education.minecraft.net
[@PlayCraftLearn](https://twitter.com/PlayCraftLearn)

Minecraft in the classroom. "One of the biggest successes around the game is the fact that it has brought the idea of game based learning into popularity, with a lot more educators now looking seriously at the idea of games to help teach traditional academic concepts." says, Shahneila Saeed, Edtech 50 judge.



eCadets

www.ecadet.zone

[@eCadets](#)

eCadets – online safety education programme across schools (ages 5–14). Empowering kids to keep schools safe. More than 3,300 schools, especially primaries, supported across the UK. GoBubble – the safe social media for under 13s. The GoBubble app has wellness built in – all content is pre-moderated (by the AI, called Luca). These days, eCadets' founder, Henry Platten – formerly a Cheshire based police sergeant – is more likely to be helping teachers and children across the UK and the world with their enquiries.

Reading and Writing

www.readingwise.com

[@ReadingWise](#)

www.pobble.com

[@heyPobble](#)

Joining up the dots... two edtech products which jump-start reading for those who struggle (ReadingWise) and provide an opportunity for pupils to become published authors (Pobble). The latter is a global literacy platform for sharing primary students' writing, giving pupils a world-wide audience for their work and to assess writing. ReadingWise – an evidence-based, efficient programme for those who have struggled to learn to read.

Projects

Basingstoke College of Technology

bcot.ac.uk

[@BCoT](#)

The work around digital technology across this College to support teachers and student learning is gaining a growing reputation. Principal Anthony Bravo has created a welcoming open door and the work led by generous digital Innovation Specialist and Lecturer, Scott Hayden, [@bcotmedia](#) leads national thinking.

The Shirelands Team, Smethwick, West Midlands

www.collegiateacademy.org.uk

[@ShirelandCA](#)

www.shirelandtechnologyprimary.org.uk

[@ShirelandTP](#)

Sir Mark Grundy, is a pioneer of education technology to support teaching and learning. Mark is Executive Principal of Shireland Collegiate Academy, Teaching School and Research School; also, providing e-learning support and now building four tech-rich Free Schools under the determined leadership of Kirsty Tonks, Principal of Shireland Technology Primary.

ImOkay App and Project

www.imokay.org.uk

Katie Griffiths was winner of a Tech Woman 50 award for her contribution to enabling other young girls to get into tech.

An inspiring young role model. The app she created with fellow teenagers, Alex, Emily and Josie, [@ImOkayApp](#) has helped 1000s, with real life stories about sexuality and gender, simple definitions and support services. The aim is simple – helping young people through difficult times and plugging the gap in help



apps for LGBTQ teens. The girls were on the Apps for Good programme at Stratford Grammar School for Girls.

Flipped Learning/Online Resource, HELM Open

www.nottingham.ac.uk/helmopen/

This Jisc supported project has developed a wide range of technological and media-based re-usable educational materials and interventions in health/maternity care. Robust methodology in the design and development of resources for learning from staff involved (Prof. Heather Wharrad, Dr Richard Windle, Kirsty Coolin and their colleagues) who promote the activities of HELM modules at the University of Nottingham. Flipped learning resources for the Politics of Maternity Care Module included a live and recorded debate by experts on induction of labour.

Edtech Podcast

www.theedtechpodcast.com

[@PodcastEdtech](#)

Improving the dialogue between 'ed' and 'tech' through storytelling, for better innovation and impact. Informative and thought provoking. Great effort from Sophie Bailey with over a 100 podcasts and counting – useful to engage with the global edtech discussion.

Women Edtech

[@WomenEd_Tech](#)

Connecting existing and aspiring women in digital leadership and led by [@nicoleponsford](#) and part of the [@WomenEd](#) vibrant and influential network.

National [#WomenEd](#) Leaders:

[@ViviennePorritt](#)

[@TheHopefulHT](#)

[@keziah70](#)

[@equitableed](#)

[@JulesDaulby](#)

Coding for the Future

Five exceptional and far-sighted coding related projects:

Code Kingdoms

codekingdoms.com

[@CodeKingdoms](#)

Allows students to transition from block-based to text-based programming. The simple slider function enables students across ages and abilities to engage with the environment effectively... aimed at ages 8–14.

Code Club

www.codeclub.org.uk

[@CodeClub](#)

A nationwide network of volunteers and educators who run free coding clubs for young people aged 9–13.

Project Torino, Microsoft

aka.ms/projecttorino

Physical programming language for visually impaired learners.

Teaching London Computing and the cs4fn Project

[@TeachingLDNComp](#)

Outreach project from Queen Mary College, University of London and resource hub for CAS London: the computers at school learning centre – 'just simply awesome!' says judge Shahneila Saeed.

London Grid for Learning

lgfl.net

Led by, John Jackson ex-Camden CIO – A community of 3,000 schools, academies and LAs in the capital and beyond benefitting from scale in procurement and development of secure broadband, IT services and curriculum resource. Set up by the 33 London boroughs in 2001 – 97% of London's Schools are part of this community, connecting to the Internet via Jisc's Janet network.



The Power of the Network/s

Microsoft Innovative Educator

#MIEExpert

@microsoftekduk

www.education.microsoft.com

Google certified educator

#GoogleCE

@GoogleForEdu

www.google.com/edu

Apple Distinguished Educator

#AppleTeacher

@AppleEDU

www.apple.com/education/apple-distinguished-educator

Established networks of trained, certified, educator ambassadors for market-leading Apple, Google and Microsoft products, which often underpin current and developing edtech activity. "Can these networks be harnessed and work better together for further leaps forward in edtech adoption and understanding across the UK?" asks, Ty Goddard.

Glow Programme, Scotland

glowconnect.org.uk

Online learning community in Scotland a nationally available digital environment for learning. Via a user account, Glow gives access to a number of different web services: MS Office 365, WordPress blogs, Wikispaces and wikis to GlowTV and Glow Meet. Provides a variety of safe and secure cloud-based services for collaborative, innovative and social learning etc. Glow accounts are available to all schools and education establishments across Scotland.

National Digital Learning Council, Wales

hwb.gov.wales/community-ndlc

Wales deserves commendation for pioneering a new approach to digital across the curriculum. Leadership of key politicians, Education Secretaries, Leighton Andrews AM to Kirsty Williams AM, committed academics like

Prof Tom Crick has been crucial; but the ownership and leadership of educators will ensure future success of the Digital Competency Framework (DCF). The Council, which began life as a ministerial task and finish group, has been chaired since 2102, until recently by the committed Janet Hayward OBE, with now new chair, Special School Head, Chris Britten, vice chair, Gary Beauchamp, Cardiff Metropolitan University; and present members, Simon Billington, teacher; Ty Golding, Head and Adviser; Catherine Kucia, deputy headteacher; Dilwyn Owen Head of Digital Competence at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg and adviser; Paul 'Lanny' Watkins, Digital Learning Team at Ysgol Bae Baglan, Port Talbot; Alison Howells, teacher, Cwmclydach Primary School; Gareth Dacey, Challenge Advisor, Central South Consortium; Kay Morris, ICT adviser, Ceredigion County Council; Hannah Mathias, E-learning Manager at Cardiff and Vale College; Simon Brown, Strategic Director in Estyn and Alyson Nicolson, Head of Jisc, Wales. The Hwb Wales - hwb.gov.wales - is also lively collection of digital teaching resources.

Blended Learning Consortium / Heart of Worcestershire College

blc-fe.org

A great project and came out of discussions around FELTAG (Further Education Learning Technology Action Group), a partnership of Colleges working together to create high quality online learning content. FELTAG is no longer convened but the work to implement its recommendations continues. "The Blended Learning Consortium, the work of Peter Kilcoyne and the partner Colleges is a great collaboration, says Ty Goddard."



Pioneering Imaginative Employability Approaches

Sussex Downs College, Lewes – Badging project funded by Ufi Trust's pioneering 'VocTech Seed Fund.'

www.sussexdowns.ac.uk

The VocTech Seed Fund is growing in reputation because of well-designed criteria, ably supported by thoughtful trustees and CEO. The funding pot aims to improve vocational skills in the UK's workforce by funding digital solutions for vocational learning. Focus on 'scalable' projects and learners that have failed to be engaged by the formal educational system. One of the fund's recipients includes Sussex Downs College's Digital Guild, led by innovator, Kevin Jones.

Founders4Schools/Workfinder

www.workfinder.com

Bringing opportunities for the young and ideas and inspiration to business. Making an impact on the lives of UK school children by giving them great entrepreneurs as role models. An inspirational and brilliant way to make work experience opportunities accessible to teenagers.

Developing Digital Skills

Four exceptional computing and digital skills initiatives:

Barefoot Computing project, CAS – Computers at School
barefootcas.org.uk

Barefoot supports primary educators with the confidence, knowledge, skills and resources to teach computer science. Resources aligned to the curricular for all UK nations.

BT STEM Crew

stemcrew.co.uk

An innovative online platform offering teachers interactive digital resources covering a range of subjects; each demonstrating the applications of STEM through real-life examples from Land Rover BAR and the British America's Cup sailing team.

Apps for Good

www.appsforgood.org

Gives 10-18 year olds the opportunity to design a digital product in a way that is designed to encourage girls to pursue a career in technology.

BAFTA Young Games Designers

ygd.bafta.org

Working with educators and some of the top names in the video games industry, BAFTA have opened a competition allowing children aged 10 – 18 to win one of their prestigious awards based on a game that they either simply design, or create.



Judges' Commendations

Girls Education Challenge (GEC)

[@DFID_UK](#)

Ambitious DFID and partners funded programme aimed at supporting a million of the world's most marginalised girls in developing countries to access learning opportunities, including many projects through edtech.

Maren Deepwell

[@MarenDeepwell](#)

Chief Exec of Association for Learning Technology – a membership organisation of practitioners, researchers and policy makers with an interest in Learning Technology (LT). Her vision is for LT to become an effective way for all to learn, teach and assess.

Paul Morrison

[@paulmorri360](#)

[@HPE_UKPS](#)

www.HPE.com

Paul demonstrates exemplary leadership across education and technology. Committed and passionate about helping young people to succeed. Paul's work for the Hewlett Packard Enterprise education team takes him throughout the UK's education sector. Recently a finalist in the annual Black British Business Awards 2017 for STEM Leader of the Year. Mentor, soup kitchen volunteer and supporter of events, he exemplifies the power of being and leading.

Charles Wiles

[@CharlesWiles](#)

Established entrepreneur and former Google Product Manager. Doctorate in robotics and artificial intelligence. Founded Zzish – educational quizzes to help young people memorise and master a subject. Recently ran successful £1m+ crowd-funder.

Bob Harrison

[@BobHarrisonEdu](#)

Clear-sighted, trustee of Ufi Trust and edtech consultant. Passionate ambassador at large for edtech.

London Connected Learning Centre (CLC)

[@LdnCLC](#)

An award-winning local organisation, based in Lambeth, that helps schools students and families use digital technologies to improve learning, part of Education Development Trust.

Ones to Note

The response to the call for public nomination was such that we have included a 'Ones to note' section. There are many who are also 'ones to watch' in the year ahead as their work comes to the fore.

Ones to Note – People

Richard Smith

Inspiring ICT teacher/trainer.

Laurie Forcier

Thought Leadership, Pearson.

David Bainbridge

CEO, Bo-Clips.

Jamie Smith

South Staffordshire College.

Passionate digital advocate.

Mursal Hedayat

Truly inspirational. She set up Chatterbox, an online language tuition service that employs skilled refugees.

Glen Jones

Founder of Cyber Coach.

In partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University developing 'Emile.'

Justin Cooke

Investor and supporter of edtech, including Digital Theatre.

Nihal Salah

Growing the reputation of Unio by Harness.

Ollie Jones

The entrepreneur and trainee doctor behind the TeachMeSeries, University of Leicester.

Ian Koxvold – PWC

Incisive edtech business insights.

Priya Lakhani OBE

Founder/CEO of CENTURY Tech. Priya brings a business, legal background and zest to the world of education technology.

Guy Riese

Up Learn- AI and neuroscience.

Brad Forsyth

Digital champion and voice at Epping Forest College.

Brenda Morris

New CEO, Capita Sims.

Keith Brown

University of Bath, personal Blog.

Gareth Shaw

Teacher at Ballyclare High School, Intel Education Visionary and a Microsoft Expert Educator.

Mark Steed

Director of JESS, Dubai – insight into appraisal systems and partnering with Hable's Review365 software.

Renaldo Lawrence

Big hearted author, Adobe Educational Leader, Apple Distinguish Educator, Microsoft Innovative Teacher and Developer.

Olly Lewis

Physics HOD and Head of year 9, Google and Microsoft certified. All round edtech enthusiast and generous sharer of pearls of wisdom.

Claire Lotriet

Assistant head, TES columnist. Co-author of Rising Stars 'Switched on Computing' CPD modules and the odd selfie.

Geraldine Smith Nunes

Computing educator and pioneer of data driven dance: ReadySaltedCode.

Miles Berry

Busy principal lecturer in computing education at Roehampton University. Board member of Computing at School and British Computing Society Academy of Computing.

Ones to Note – Product

Tassomai

An intelligent online learning tool, predominantly for GCSE science.

Prospela

Interesting e-mentoring platform.

Ohbot

Robot head that is constructed and programmed by children.

OnVu Learning

User-friendly equipment that supports teachers, to engage with evidence-based professional development.

Peapodcity

Just launched their second product at London Toy Fair, in collaboration with students from LDEUTC. Also won a second award for AR Space Cards.

Race for the Line on Dendrite

Exciting STEM skills.

Pi-top

Project-based computer science and STEAM learning tools using Raspberry Pi.

LIFT UPP

Interesting take on dentistry.

EDDI

School improvement system powered by data insight.

Erase All Kittens

Coding made fun and easy – designed to inspire girls to create.

Teacher Tapp

Education survey tool.

Maker Club

Maker club network and holiday STEM fun.

Yoto

Early stage speaker pod and physical cards for children.

'How to fail your research degree'

Sage advice.

Literacy shed

Inspiring platform with verve by Rob Smith.

'Developing Experts'

Mastery made easy.

Innovate My School

A website that keeps teachers informed about the latest ideas and trends in edtech.

ClassVR

Platform using the power of Virtual and Augmented Reality.

DE-ENIGMA project

Researching humanoid robots. Using AI and tech to help make a real difference to the lives of children on the autism spectrum.

NetSupport

AI Kingsley's Net Support – solutions for the education sector.

Wholeschool

Multiple award-winning Belfast-based Global Education Platform, fast approaching one million users.

Wonde

Simplicity of school log-in and accounts use.

EduKit

Social enterprise helping schools measure and track student wellbeing, show impact of spending, discover and record interventions that work.

Ones to Note – Project The SHARP PROJECT

Tech start-ups ecosystem and digital content, Manchester.

Digital Schoolhouse

Powered by PlayStation, sponsored by SEGA and Warwickshire County Council. Uses play-based learning.

Voca Tempo Project

Students at Richard Cloudesley school working with Therapy Box to design an app for young people with cerebral palsy.

Learning Foundation

Their toolkit – provides advice to schools about all aspects of introducing technology.

CAVC (Cardiff and Vale College)

Pioneering and inspiring work – particularly around supporting learners with ALN/ SEND.

Pint of Science

Makes informal learning accessible, and “fearlessly breaking the barrier between public curiosity and complex R&D,” said their nomination.

Oxford Hive

Oxford Hub for International Virtual Education. Exciting collaborative space.

Educate project

UCL's European funded research and edtech project – laying the foundations of better edtech product creation.

Rocket Fund

NESTA's edtech crowdfunding platform for schools. Breath of fresh air. Sensitive project planning and emphasis on larger scale philanthropy will make it shine.

Ada National College for Digital Skills

A further education college in Tottenham Hale, London. It is named after Ada Lovelace and opened in September 2016.

Ada

Bolton College's Ada – a cognitive assistant for students, teachers plus its adaptive learning environment.

Big Learning Company

Based in and created Cardiff's Tramshed space. Also popularising edtech and Lego education products.

Arbor

Building data systems that can help save teachers' time and improve student insight.

Third Space Learning

One-to-one SATS preparation.

Creative Computing Club

A great club providing students with valuable opportunities for skills development in Suffolk.

Open Ed Practices Project

Repository of edtech resources, following closure of successful project in Scotland.

University of Northampton, Active Blended Learning Project

Ahead of Waterside Campus development. Thought leadership and project, led by Professor Ale Armellini and team.

Education App Store

Online curation of best education apps.

Some of our work in the Edtech Sector

www.ednfoundation.org



www.jisc.ac.uk

