Editorial

Hi

It's been quite a while since the last newsletter. Unfortunately, I fractured my elbow in May, and that prevented me from doing much. (You will understand that I had to prioritise putting bread on the table.)

Very annoying it was too: I had to cancel a couple of courses I was booked on as a student, turn down the opportunity to go to Canada to blog about the EduSummit conference (see below) and cancel my attendance at the conference of the Technology, Pedagogy and Education Association.

Still, that was then, this is now, and although having to do physio is something of an inconvenience, I'm back at full speed! Nevertheless, the contretemps had such a disproportionate impact in terms of convenience that I'm considering issuing, next year, on the anniversary of this unfortunate event (22nd May), a commemorative edition of the X-rays that were taken of my elbow. This deluxe product will, of course, have a strictly limited print run.

This edition of the newsletter has a particular focus on fake news. Why fake news? Because it will soon be Media Literacy Week in Australia, Canada, globally (UNESCO) and the USA.
But enough of this persiflage: on with the newsletter!

Terry

**News**

**Another winner!**

**Prize draw**

Last time, I ran a prize draw for "How to be a coder". (Here is [my review](#) of it.) I'm delighted to inform you that it was won by Tony Sheppard. Tony is the Head of Services and Operations at GDPR in Schools. He says "Security by design and data protection/privacy by design are core tenets of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). It is always interesting to see what aspects of these are present within the school curriculum and how they get portrayed."

**Be a hero!**

**Have a go**

September was "Have a go" month. It's a very interesting idea, so I thought I'd mention it even though it's not September any more. They encourage institutions to offer taster sessions. Perhaps there are some interesting ones on in your area. Or maybe your school or you could offer some yourself, such as to parents. Here's the website: [Have a go](#).
Get your pupils blogging

Blogging challenge

In October, the 23rd student blogging challenge begins. It's aimed at pupils aged 8 to 16, and runs for 8 weeks.

There's a pretty tight schedule, with each week focusing on a particular aspect of blogging. For example, week 3 is concerned with using images safely and legally.

There are also two free courses, one for pupils and one for teachers. You could integrate the blogging challenge with your digital literacy lessons, or simply as a way of connecting your pupils with others. Here's the website for more information and to register:

2019 Blogging Challenge

It's run by Sue Waters and Kathleen Morris by the way. See below for a good resource from Sue about using Twitter. Also, I recommend signing up for Kathleen's newsletter, because that will give you access to two free books. One of them is on using images, and the other is about searching the web. Both are for helping teachers to guide their pupils in the right direction. Now, in the interests of upfrontness, I have to tell you that I have only just signed up for the newsletter myself, and that as the newsletters are on hold at the moment I have not read one. However, the articles on Kathleen's blog are really good, so that's what I'm basing my recommendation on.

One for adults

New blogging course

I've been invited to teach a one-day blogging taster course, in London, in December. Interested?

Here's a link to more information: Blogging course.

Some years ago I wrote an article about why educators should blog. I know that teaching doesn't leave much time for anything else, but I do think blogging is a very useful practice, for the reasons given in the article.

The course I'm teaching is not specifically for teachers though. It's for anyone who has
thought vaguely about blogging, or perhaps has even started one, but would like a bit more guidance.

Anyway, if you think it might be of interest, read the article about the sort of things that we'll cover:

Blogging course.

Events

Education conference in Quebec

EduSummit 2019

Lawrence Williams writes:

We are delighted to inform you that MirandaNet Senior Fellow, Professor Margaret Cox, OBE, is co-chairing the EDUSummit 2019 Conference in Quebec, together with Thérèse Laferrière, Canada.

Learners and learning contexts: New alignments for the digital age

September 29th - October 2nd, 2019

Québec City, Canada

(By invitation)

Lawrence will be reporting on the conference outcomes, and passing information to others, including myself. Look out for updates on the ICT & Computing in Education website.

Education conference

Marketing to Schools Summit

Bee Digital marketing agency is running a conference about how to get into schools. Bryan Plumb, the CEO, says:

"There will be 9 speakers, and it will be a day full of proven marketing to school strategies."
It takes place in London on 15 October 2019. The agenda looks very useful, and delegates will gain access to resources like swipe files and Bryan's 9 word email he uses to re-engage old customers.

The venue will be Kings Place, which is just across the street from Kings Cross/St Pancras station. I'd leave some spare time afterwards if you can. St Pancras station has a lovely shopping mall, with some really nice shops and cafés. There used to be a good bookshop too, but last time I was there (a couple of weeks ago), it had gone.

Just along the road is the British Library (more cafés) and a great bookshop.

Across the road from the British Library is Mabledon Place, which leads into Marchmont Street, where you will find Judd Books, which sells cut-price new books, and more cafés. (Are you beginning to detect a couple of themes here?) Walk a bit further on, and you come to Skoob Books, a second-hand bookshop that has the largest collection of Penguin Classics in one place that I've ever seen.

Pardon? The what? Oh yes, sorry, the conference.

Here's the link: Marketing to Schools Summit.

Sign up by 5pm on October 8th; delegates will receive recordings of the talks afterwards. Which is just as well, because I have to disappear at lunchtime because of a meeting that has been in my diary for ages.

Please note: Bryan very kindly offered me a free ticket for this event. I thought that was a very kind thing to do, so I asked him if he would like me to mention the conference here as my way of saying "Thanks".

Sponsored article

An article from our advertisers, ICT Direct

The new school year is here and most of you will have been hard at work these last six weeks doing maintenance, new installations, system upgrades & all those niggling jobs that you just can't do with a site full of users.
Whilst you spend the first few days of term resetting passwords, helping incoming staff and students alike get to grips with new technologies and reminding existing users where their work is saved we thought we’d see if there's anything we can do to help?

Over the summer period we have:

- Helped refresh the equivalent of 110 full IT suites.
- Provided over 1,000 monitor upgrades for existing machines.
- We've supplied 50 class sets worth of our finest refurbished laptops along with the best in class Loxit hardware to store them.
- Finally, we have helped fifty schools improve their core infrastructure with our amazing server packages featuring 10Gb connectivity and our market beating standard 3 year warranties as standard!

With the summer as busy a time as it is, we know that not all orders can get fulfilled on time and schools will have to look elsewhere. If you are in such a situation and require a rapid turnaround on a project that is not yet completed, we can help. In preparation for the new school year, we have a vast range of Desktop PCs, Laptops, Professional Workstations and Top of the Line Servers ready to ship when required.

If there's anything you require, do get in touch and we'll be on hand to help you find a solution.

You can reach us via email using sales@ict-direct.co.uk or by phone using 01254 820980.
Computing and related qualifications
Here in England the Government, in its quest to put Computing on the map, did its best to make sure the rest of the map was blank – by getting rid of qualifications that lots of students took (especially girls). I do try to avoid politics in my articles, so I will simply say this. As politicians always seem to fall foul of unintended consequences, I find myself in agreement with Crispin Sartwell. In History, totally destroyed, he writes:

"We must now reckon with this fact: Human history is the bumbling-about of self-deluded and incompetent doinks. Surely you are not going to deny that. It is nothing so much as a series of pratfalls by inept leaders and the suckers who follow them toward doom. Their incompetence is a historical force in the lives of each and all of us."

Fortunately for you, I am doing my bit to counteract their ineptitude, in the form of my latest ebook. It's a guide to the Computing and Computing-related qualifications available to state schools in England. It's not quite in the same league as Tolstoy or D.H. Lawrence, but it's a heck of a lot more useful, because it will save you hours of trawling the web. (Even if you have no need for such a guide, as it's full of tables you will find it a great cure for insomnia.)

There's lots of possibilities "out there". A couple of years ago, for instance, I came across a Head of Computing who was running a course in networking.

This amazingly brilliant guide is available as a pdf for the ridiculously low price of £0.99, or whatever that equates to in your currency. You may have to pay value-added tax on it if you live in the European Union.

Here is the link: https://payhip.com/b/IWTR.

**Back to school**

Now that the post-summer holiday dust has settled, here are a few resources you may find useful.

- [Top Research Websites, Search Engines, and a Research Choice Menu for K-12 Students](--- From Shelly Terrell.
- [The Ultimate Guide to Twitter](-- from Sue Waters.
• 7 things to blog about back in school – by yours truly.
• 5 ways of coding offline – from Danny Nicholson.
• Literacy from Python – from Lawrence Williams. This is a new site, building on the success of Literacy from Scratch (see below).
• Literacy from Scratch – also from Lawrence Williams. Many of the projects (by children) displayed here are truly inspiring.
• School resource management self-assessment tool -- from the English government.
• Schools Financial Value Standard (for schools and Local Authorities) – ditto.

Digibyte: Research
This is an article about research into whether pupils find it easier to learn programming via a graphical interface or a text one. (Spoiler alert: they do.)

Block programming vs text programming

Leadership links
• Is your Computing department, or the ed tech in your school, recognisable? Cos it should be. The importance of branding.
• Ofsted Handbook. Essential reading for subject leaders in
England and Wales.

- **Ofsted Inspection Framework**. Ditto.
- **Inspecting the curriculum**. Ditto again.

If all this inspection stuff gets you down, bear in mind that the inanities that the prospect of inspection induces have always been present. Don't believe me? Read *The Government Inspector*, by Gogol. When the Governor of the town is panicking about the forthcoming arrival of an inspector, he says to the person in charge of the hospital, regarding the number of patients there are:

"It would be better too if there weren't so many of them; otherwise it will be at once ascribed to bad supervision or unskillful doctoring."

**Articles you may find interesting**

- **The Power of Professional Networks**, by Emma Goto.
- **Coding courses from tech giants**.
- **Two cheers for Jacob Rees-Mogg's style guide**, by Terry Freedman. Unfortunately, politicians in the UK are unable to speak without including phrases like "driving the agenda" and "delivering outcomes". The politician Jacob Rees-Moggs has issued a style guide to his staff. But is it any good, and was it really necessary?
Fake news

Useful dates:

- 7-11 October 2019 Media Literacy Week, Canada
- 21-25 October 2019 Media Literacy Week, USA
- 21-27 October 2019 Media Literacy Week, Australia
- 24-31 October 2019 Global Media and Literacy Week, Unesco

Interesting articles concerning fake news
Fact or fiction? How to check the news.

A finder's guide to facts.

Why 80 per cent of young people in this Macedonian town have turned to posting 'fake news'.

Why Do Hoax Videos Proliferate When Disaster Strikes?

How to spot fake news.

8 things students should know about the new media literacy

Useful resources:

- **Tools for spotting fake news**
- [https://fullfact.org](https://fullfact.org) for separating fact from fiction (UK-centred) and...
- ... [https://fullfact.org/toolkit/#factchecking-the-internet](https://fullfact.org/toolkit/#factchecking-the-internet) for very useful set of how-to articles about to detect fake images, headlines and other aspects of news.
- [https://mediabiasfactcheck.com](https://mediabiasfactcheck.com) for checking the mainstream media for left- or right-wing bias, conspiracy theory peddlers, or satire.
- [https://www.factcheck.org/the-factcheck-wire/](https://www.factcheck.org/the-factcheck-wire/) for examining the truth behind the headlines (very US-centric)
- **A generic activity for teaching about fake news** - a hand-drawn infographic from me. Why not use this in conjunction with Danny Nicholson's fake websites collection (below)?
- Look out for my fake news lesson plan, and a book review about fake news, in the October issue of *Teach Secondary* (out around 18 October 2019).
- **Reading like a historian**.
- **Newsguard** is a website evaluation scheme that helps you decide whether or not a website is trustworthy as far as news reporting is concerned. See my review below.
- **Newswise** is a free cross-curricular news literacy project for 9-11 year-olds. See Danny Nicholson's article: Become fake news detectives with Newswise.
- Also from Danny Nicholson: test your students' critical literacy skills with these fake websites.
- Here's an online game/simulation to demonstrate how misinformation spreads on the internet. Contrary to what you might think, it does not require a majority verdict so to speak: [Crowds](https://www.crowds.org/).

Useful publications
Please note: I have received these free of charge, but that has not influenced my reviews of them. I will be publishing full reviews of the first two books listed below on the ICT & Computing in Education website, rather than here, because this newsletter is getting a bit long! However, the links in the titles are to the "Quick Look" articles I wrote soon after receiving them. If you can't wait for the full reviews to appear in order to learn my final verdict, my "elevator speech" recommendation is to buy both titles. They are both very readable, and between them cover a wide range of fake news and misinformation examples. Each has copious notes and further reading suggestions.

- Critical Media Literacy and fake news in post-truth America.
- Trust me, me, I'm lying.
- Tackling misinformation and disinformation online: transcript of a recent Westminster Forum conference. Download the sample to get a feel for the breadth of topics covered. The transcript is very useful.

### Review of Newsguard

If you've been reading my website and newsletter for a while, you'll know that I endeavour to be as transparent as possible. For example, affiliate links are made clear, and if I review books I've been sent, or events for which I've been given free tickets, I state that that's the case -- so that if I wax lyrical about something, readers know the praise is genuine. But, to quote Mandy Rice-Davies, I would say that, wouldn't I? Therefore I submitted the website to an organisation called Newsguard. This would enable me to achieve two things: test Newsguard – because I like to try resources out before writing about them --, and find out just how transparent my website appears to others.

Newsguard is a service that rates websites for honesty, transparency and trustworthiness. I first learnt about them from a conference on fake news, by the Westminster Forum, for which I received a complimentary ticket. Newsguard evaluates websites against several criteria, such as whether information is gathered and presented responsibly. This is important, because one trick that some bloggers and websites use to raise the number of visitors to their sites is to publish information which may or may not be correct, in order to be first with the news. If it turns out to be wrong, so much the better, because they can then publish a correction, thereby generating even more page views. In my opinion, this is fundamentally unethical. Rushing into "print" regardless of factual accuracy or the possibly dreadful effects inaccurate reporting might have is simply wrong.

See this website for the full list of Newsguard's criteria: [https://www.newsguardtech.com/ratings/rating-process-criteria/](https://www.newsguardtech.com/ratings/rating-process-criteria/).

I wrote about Newsguard in Quick Looks: Trust me, I'm lying, but here's the gist.
Rather than rely on computer algorithms to evaluate websites, they use a team of journalists.

The process is very interesting. I submitted the URL of my website, and waited. After a week or so, one of their journalists contacted me to clarify some issues. I found the questions he asked me very incisive, and helped me to make the website even better. For example, he asked if I update articles when necessary. Yes I do, but have not always indicated that I've done so. Now I do, unless I've only corrected a typo. He also asked if guest writers on the site are named. The answer is yes, always. However, I hadn't stated that explicitly on the front page of the blog (www.ictineducation.org/articles). Now I have done so. I also made similar changes to my other website – www.writersknowhow.org.

Once Newsguard have evaluated a website, they give it a rating in the form of a coloured shield. Green means there are more good aspects than bad, but you have to click on the shield to reveal which criteria the site has met, and which ones it hasn't.

As one would hope, Newsguard is itself transparent when it reviews a website. It includes evidence of how it reached its conclusions, and the names and contact details of the journalists involved. Moreover, when I discovered that a statement they'd made about my website was incorrect, because I hadn't explained something clearly enough, they corrected it immediately.

If you install one of the Newsguard browser extensions, you can reduce the prospects of inadvertently imbibing fake news or bias. This is because if a website has been rated, its shield will appear in the search results as well as on the website itself. This is useful because if your pupils undertake a search on a topic, and discover several websites, the presence of a Newsguard shield will help them to know which of those websites (if any) can be trusted.

You could also have the pupils look at websites that have a red shield, and ask them if they can spot where the website fell down. They can then check their theories by clicking on the shield on the website. And of course they might use the Newsguard criteria to carry out their own evaluations.

What of satire? If a satirical website has gone through the Newsguard process, its shield will be orange. Clicking on the shield will reveal the fact that it's not a news site, but a satire or humour website.

And the evaluation of the ICT and Computing in Education website? All of the Newsguard criteria were met. Therefore, the ICT and Computing in Education website is trustworthy -- and that's official!
Just in case you didn't know, my sources of income are educational consultancy, courses, writing and talks. You can read about all these activities and more in the section of the ICT & Computing in Education website called Working with Terry Freedman.

If you've enjoyed reading this newsletter, please pass it on to a friend or colleague. If you did not enjoy reading it, pass it on to someone you don't like! And if this isn't your own copy, please subscribe at Digital Education.

Thanks for reading.

Terry Freedman Ltd
Registered Office, Priestley House, Priestley Gardens,, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 4SN
United Kingdom

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

Unsubscribe