Learning and Teaching Newsletter
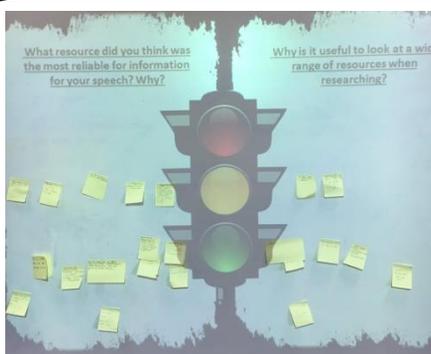
At a glance…

4 practical ideas to use in the classroom

Stretch more able learners in your class by making them class experts to go around the class and help others!

Assess students understanding through a post-it note traffic light plenary!

Nandos Differentiated Tasks – The hotter the chilli the harder the task!

Visual Hexagons – A picture says a thousand words so why not get students to write as much as they can from 6 pictures related to a topic.

IRIS Connect: A Reflection

Jared Gore

My experience with using IRIS Connect in my classroom can be summarised to four stages - Enthusiasm, Terror, Cringe, Motivation. Here I will explain what I mean by these stages and hopefully inspire some of you to use IRIS!

Of course I was enthusiastic when I brought the kit to my classroom. There was something exciting about setting up two iPads in my room, one of which follows me wherever I go! It was extremely quick and easy to prepare the equipment and I was ready to film my own personal episode of 'Educating Islwyn'!

Then, of course, the reality of it all sunk in and I was terrified of the prospect of my flaws being captured on camera! Luckily, this vanished after a couple of minutes because I totally forgot the equipment was there. That is, until the end of my lesson when I realised I need to watch it back!

This was it. The moment I *wasn't* waiting for. Watching it back. I knew that, due to the fact I had logged in on my account, no one but me could access the footage; I was very grateful of that at this point! But it wasn't anywhere near as bad as I thought it would be. Yes, at times I cringed. Of course I did. But I gave *myself* more points to improve than any observer ever could. It's definitely true that you're your own worst critic, but when it comes to watching yourself back with no one else being involved, that's not a bad thing!

And so on to stage four: Motivation. Since my initial use of IRIS, I've gone a bit nuts! I've watched back 6 lessons so far and plan to continue. Why? Because I don't believe you can judge your own lesson from the front of the room so I've improved more from using IRIS these past few months than I have since September.
We have two IRIS Connect systems that can be booked out, and considering how beneficial they have been to me, It seems a shame they collect so much dust. With it being easy to set up, no one can access the footage but you, and you *will* see how you can improve, there's really no reason not to IRIS!

Someone to follow...

Mark Anderson 💬
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ICT Evangelist. Creative & impactful research-informed teaching practices. Educator, Speaker, Consultant, Blogger & Author. ITL/ADE/GCI/MIE/MCCT.
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Mark is a teacher, consultant, and award wining blogger and author. Follow him for interesting blogs, current pedagogical ideas, and motivational tweets!

Something to read...

When the adults change everything changes by *Paul Dix* explores the debate on Behaviour Management and offers effective tips and strategies that serve to end the search for change in children and turn the focus to the adults.

Something to know...

Business leaders urged to help run schools
Education Secretary Damian Hinds has given a speech calling on leading businesses to offset skills shortages on schools' governing bodies.

Something for your diary...

The National Education Show 2018
The National Education Show will provide you knowledge, resources, and expert guidance to empower and develop great learners
Friday 16th November 2018

Someone to praise...

COWAN LEWIS
Year 8

Cowan has secured another two year contract for Bristol City Academy.

An amazing sporting achievement!

Something fun...

The following contains the first and last letters of members of a group, arranged in alphabetical order. What is the group?

BCDDGHLSSYYYYY

Over to you...

Please see GF if you would like to join our editing team to help produce future issues of this newsletter.

Coming Soon!
There will be a closed access Twitter account dedicated to sharing good learning and teaching pedagogy in our school! Watch this space!