



e-Sgoil Newsletter June 2016

e-sgoil@gnes.net



WHAT IS e-Sgoil?

e-Sgoil is a many faceted initiative that aspires to improve equity and access across the Western Isles. Over the page is an extract from a committee report giving the background to its establishment, but the following sections were taken from it by Jim Fanning from Education Scotland at his 'keynote' speech at the national 'Learning Through Technology' conference in Glasgow on the 8th of June 2016.

"Digital learning is not principally about technology or online learning. It is about young people, learning, teaching and the learners' journey."

"...and it's about working together to achieve the best outcomes for learners where digital learning is used...."



Angus MacLennan (Depute Head Teacher at the Nicolson Institute) will take up the post of Head Teacher of e-Sgoil in August 2016.

EQUIP TRAINING

On the 24th to the 26th of May, sixteen members of staff were involved in developing 'equip' training which will form the core of our support to staff and students through e-Sgoil. Staff from Education Scotland, as well as our own Hamish Budge delivered the training on the tools available to all staff and students through Glow and Office 365. One of the real success stories is the use of 'Vscene', a quality and sustainable video conferencing system that can be used anywhere without the need for expensive VC equipment.

Pictured is Allan Smithyman, the Programme Manager for e-Sgoil delivering a webcam and microphone/speaker to Tracey Wright (Acting Depute Head Teacher at Sgoil Lionacleit). Tracey was involved in the training, and with her colleague Sam Dempsey, are going to work with staff at Sgoil Lionacleit to develop their expertise and the use of the digital learning tools available through





(Extract taken from the Education and Children's Services Committee report from February 2016)

The evidence has demonstrated that the Department of Education and Children's Services has kept up with the pace of change and in some key areas is sector leading as well as demonstrating transformational change in service delivery with improved outcomes in areas of:

- Attainment
- Sustained and Positive Destinations
- Personalisation and Choice
- Inclusion



However, this success combined with financial challenges and teacher shortages has resulted in:

- More students are seeking equality of opportunity across the Outer Hebrides.
- Lack of teachers in certain disciplines.

These problems are not unique to the Outer Hebrides as all island and rural authorities are experiencing similar difficulties.

The only practical viable solution is to use technology to connect schools and pupils throughout the Western Isles. This, in addition to curriculum redesign at primary, secondary and further education, will enable students to access the opportunities that are available in any school or educational resource in the Outer Hebrides or elsewhere in Scotland.

Digital Tools and Technology - Theory into Practice

After attending the very successful 'E-quip' training event, staff have already begun to test out the latest tools and technology available.

S2 Geography pupils from Sir E. Scott and Sgoil Lionacleit had the opportunity to test out *Vscene* in the first CnES *Vscene* quiz. *Vscene* allowed for a secure, clear and reliable connection between the schools. Use of a wall mounted HD camera and Jabra microphone allowed whole class participation in the hard fought battle. With excellent audio and visual clarity, quiz master Ruari Miller from Sir E. Scott was able to use a variety of 'picture rounds' to enhance the experience even further. Pupils were impressed with the technology and fully engaged in the experience. The technology is simple to set up and use. Sir E Scott edged to a narrow victory 103 – 96. A re-match is already scheduled!

Vscene has also been used to enhance professional dialogue and improve collaborative working. A group of Gaelic Medium Social Subjects staff from Sgoil Lionacleit and the Nicolson Institute has used the technology to hold joint planning meetings. The group uses *Yammer* to communicate and share ideas and is already reaping the benefits of using the tools to enhance teaching and learning.

DON'T FORGET

All staff and pupils can have Microsoft Office for FREE on their own computers. Once you log on to Glow, click on the Office 'Tile' and follow the instructions.

Please remember that your username might be:

esanother1c@gnes.net

you might have to enter

esanother1c@glow.sch.uk

