



e-Sgoil Newsletter October 2016

e-sgoil@gnes.net



Yammer Yammer Yammer

Glow is the Scotland wide intranet for schools, offering a safe and enhanced space



for digital learning. The main tools in Glow are provided by Microsoft through Office 365, and every member of staff and every pupil has a Glow account and can access the tools, and their work from any computer in the world.

Two tools that are at the heart of Office 365 are Delve and Yammer. Delve allows the user to amend their profile and select the kind of materials they would like to know about in their News-feed. Yammer works in the same way as Facebook and has already demonstrated that it is a powerful tool for collaborative working.



Gaelic Medium Primary STEM

An area e-Sgoil aims to support from the outset is Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the Primary Gaelic Medium setting. A **Yammer** group for Primary Staff has been established and twilight training in **Yammer** and **Delve** for Gaelic Medium Primary Teachers in Lewis and Harris was delivered on the 1st of September. Staff are already sharing Science resources and we hope this will help reduce teacher workload and result in the production of quality GME resources that can be stored in e-Sgoil for staff throughout Scotland.

A programme will also run in three primary schools focussing on Robotics Technology. VEX Robotics are a major supplier of educational robotics kits and have given e-Sgoil access to their servers and teaching materials so they can be translated into Gaelic. Storlann will be commencing the production of the translated materials from October.

Equity in Eileanan Siar

Following an initial meeting of Head Teachers and a subsequent meeting of Deputes with responsibility for timetabling, plans are being drawn up to move the four Secondary schools in the Western Isles onto a harmonised timetable. This will make it easier to support pupils in schools when there are staff absences. It should also make it feasible to have a sufficient number of pupils to make running courses which have not been offered in some schools viable.



Pictured above is e-Sgoil Head Teacher Angus MacLennan meeting with representatives of the Scottish Qualifications Authority who are keen to work with e-Sgoil on student registration and verification procedures.

Pictured is Allan Smithyman (e-Sgoil) handing a VEX Robotics Kit to Catriona Gilchrist (Breasclete)



e-Sgoil Hub

The physical hub for e-Sgoil will be the building vacated by Museum Nan Eilean when it moved to new premises at the Lews Castle. Work commenced at the beginning of October and should be completed in November. £150k from the Scottish Government is targeted at the renovations to the Francis Street Building which will create an office space for e-Sgoil staff and five main teaching and learning spaces.



On the 24th of August, the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney also announced £400k for ICT equipment and infrastructure to deliver the e-Sgoil programme. Bord na Gaelic have also committed £150k to e-Sgoil, bringing into the Western Isles over £700k of external funding.

On the 21st of September the Scottish Government published its Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland titled **Enhancing Learning and Teaching Through The Use Of Digital Technology**. Page 13 of the document highlights the work, aspirations and context of e-Sgoil. You can download the document by entering this link into your web browser.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505855.pdf>

e-Sgoil's Scottish dimension

e-Sgoil classes are now being delivered to a mainland authority from the Western Isles.

Pictured above is Mrs Cathy Mary Macmillan who



started teaching 18 pupils in Hazlehead Academy, Aberdeen, from Shawbost School on Tuesday 28th September. Classes range from S1 to S5.

Mrs Macmillan visited Hazlehead for a couple of days in order to meet pupils and familiarise herself with their level of fluency in Gàidhlig. She delivers lessons through Vscene (a video conferencing package) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and prepares work which pupils can complete under the supervision of another teacher on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Curriculum Choice



For the first time ever pupils at Sir E Scott are able to undertake a Higher in Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies in their own school thanks to technology. Teachers from The Nicolson Institute are delivering the course through Vscene and Glow on a timetabled basis. Initial feedback from pupils, parents and teachers is very positive. In addition to this, pupils at Uig Primary School are receiving on-line fiddle tuition every week from Neil Johnstone who is delivering these lessons from the Nicolson Institute.