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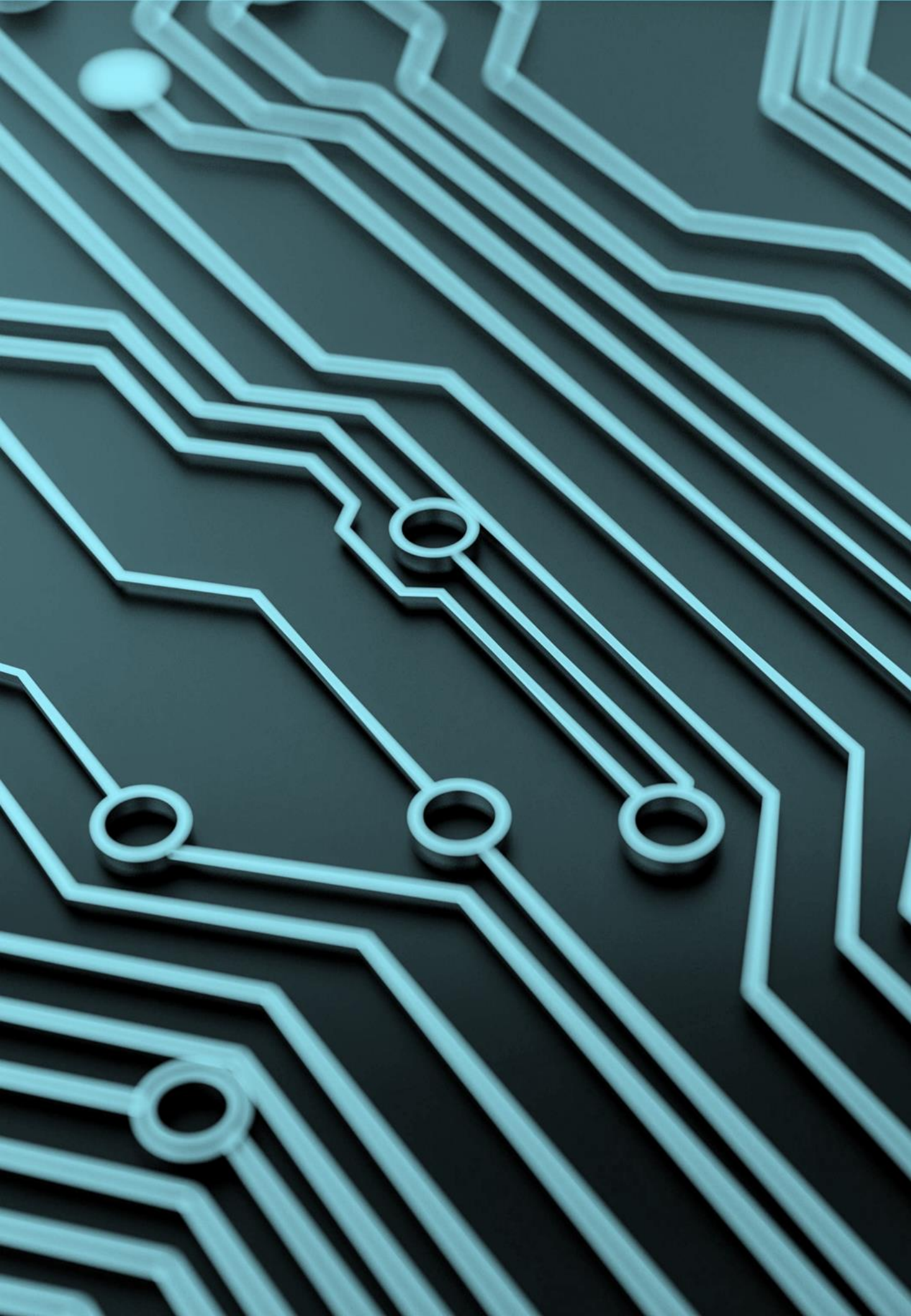

Exploring EdTech © May 2024

Editor: Marcus Lavery
Publisher: World Explorers Bureau

Website: www.exploringedtech.ie

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ISSN 2811-6224

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EXPLORING EDTECH

Editorial

Welcome to **Exploring EdTech #8**.

The edtech revolution is shifting into overdrive as Claude.ai arrives in Ireland and Google's Gemini attempts to steal the spotlight from ChatGPT. The EU AI Act was passed, aiming to promote trustworthy AI in education by setting clear guardrails around privacy, bias, oversight, transparency, and safety of systems that could impact students' learning outcomes or opportunities.

Bridging the digital divide still remains a priority, with €50M being made available by the Department of Education to digitally empower all students. Little wonder that major tech giants are striving to control the lucrative edtech market, but it should be remembered that there are many home-grown EdTech solutions that are worth serious consideration for this expenditure.

In this issue, our first feature focuses on Intel's Skills for Innovation (SFI) Platform, a comprehensive framework and platform designed to equip educators with the tools and resources essential for seamlessly integrating technology-infused learning experiences into their curriculum. We explore the various components of the SFI framework, including the Starter Packs, Professional Development courses, and the vibrant SFI Community.

We shine the spotlight on the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP), a remarkable initiative that has provided more than 100,000 primary school pupils in Ireland with the opportunity to experience practical, real-life business learning.

Under their teacher's guidance, and with the inspiration of a network of nationwide entrepreneurs, children discover their strengths as individuals and as part of a team. They choose, invest in, and produce their own product or service from scratch, all the way to making it available for sale at a school-hosted JEP Showcase Day.

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme is a testament to the transformative power of entrepreneurial education. It's an initiative that is shaping the future leaders and innovators of Ireland and the world, one classroom at a time.

In addition, we introduce you to the EdTech Ireland Network and its 100+ member companies, who are at the forefront of the EdTech revolution, harnessing the power of technology to shape the future of teaching and learning. We showcase some of the innovative Irish EdTech companies and their groundbreaking solutions.

Finally, we highlight Irish developed Kells Class, a pioneering learning management system (LMS) tailored for online English education, designed to overcome the specific challenges faced by educators and students worldwide.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Exploring EdTech Magazine and are inspired by the innovative initiatives and solutions presented within.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas and suggestions for future issues.

Marcus A. Lavery, Editor, May 27th, 2024
editor@exploringedtech.ie

Intel® Skills for Innovation

Empowering Education for the Future

Margaret Purdue

Intel® Skills for Innovation: Empowering Education for the Future

Margaret Purdue

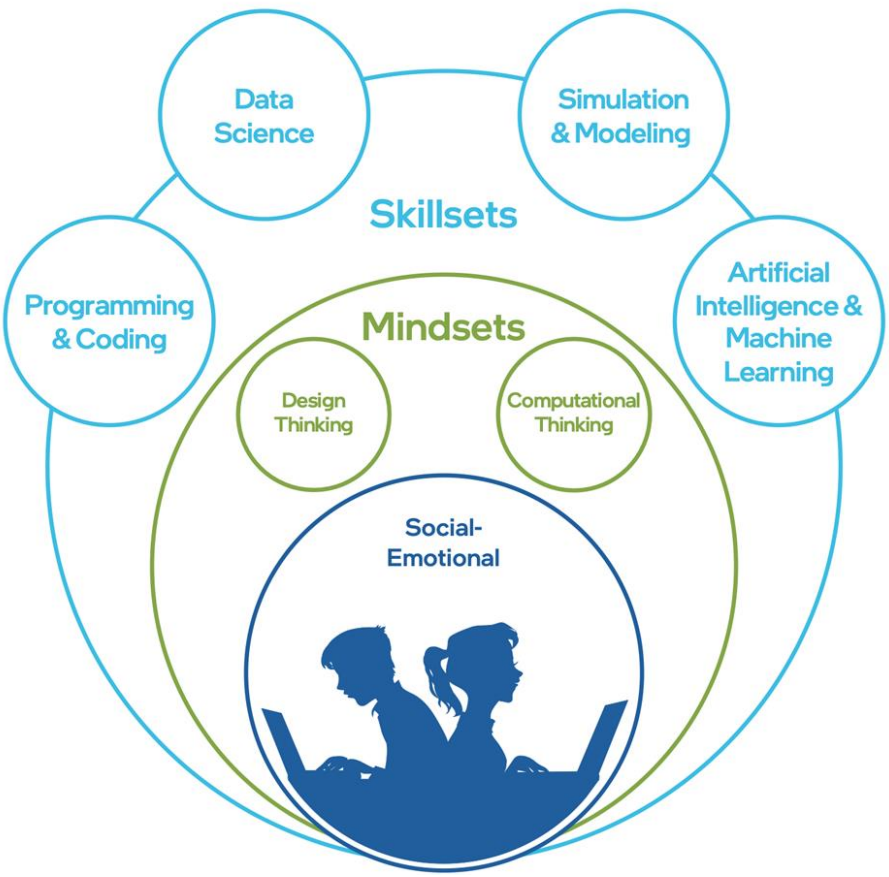
In today's dynamic educational landscape, characterized by the rapid integration of technology into classrooms worldwide, preparing students with the skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution is imperative.

Intel envisions a world in which students learn, from anywhere, the skills to be innovators as they prepare for, imagine and create jobs of the future, In order to support the transformation journey of education systems, Intel has unveiled the Skills for Innovation (SFI) Platform, a comprehensive framework designed to equip educators with the tools and resources essential for seamlessly integrating technology-infused learning experiences into their curriculum.

About Intel® Skills for Innovation Framework

Intel Skills for Innovation Framework empowers today’s students to become tomorrow’s innovators. Using this framework, educators can integrate technology into their programs and plans to build skills of the future, and help students develop their cognitive, technical, and social-emotional skills.

Intel Skills for Innovation framework focuses on the development of mindsets and skillset.:



The framework and its corresponding resources package include:

1) A planning toolkit to help education decision makers understand new skill requirements, align stakeholders, and facilitate the creation of an action plan.
2) A starter pack that allows schools and educators to experience how technology can be used for curriculum-integrated skill building activities along with resources to support the development of physical and virtual innovation spaces
3) A series of professional development courses to develop educator competencies to facilitate higher order skills development in their students.

Taken together, the Intel Skills for Innovation framework allows decision makers and educators to understand, experience and implement the Skills for Innovation vision in their education system.

Intel® SFI Starter Packs

Intel SFI Starter Packs consist of over 100 activities and lesson plans spanning diverse subjects tailored for K-12 schools. These lessons serve as ready-to-use resources, meticulously crafted to foster innovation, and cultivate future-ready skills in students. These activities focus on higher-order cognitive skills, innovative mindsets, and seamless technology integration.

The Starter Pack activities incorporate technology into the traditional subjects encompassing STEM, humanities, and language arts, offering a comprehensive approach to skill development. From cloud-based software for 3D modeling to programming tools and digital fabrication technologies like 3D printing, students are exposed to a myriad of technological resources enriching their learning journey.

Moreover, each activity within the Starter Packs comes accompanied by a comprehensive set of resources, including educator's guides, class presentation materials, and working files. These resources are curated to support educators in delivering engaging and interactive lessons that foster hands-on learning and collaboration among students.

Intel® SFI Professional Development

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, it is important for educators to adapt and equip themselves with the necessary skills to empower students for the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Intel Skills for Innovation (Intel SFI) Professional Development offers a robust framework designed to support educators in seamlessly integrating technology into their teaching practices while fostering innovation among learners.

Structured into four progressive levels, the Intel SFI framework caters to various stages of professional development for educators.

Adapter

Level 1: Adapter of Technology

Support educators who are new to technology in building a strong foundation for basic digital fluency through a mix of F2F and supervised, online modules.

Owner

Level 2: Leader of Learning Experiences

Help educators transition from being content experts to becoming effective owners and leaders of learning experiences in anywhere learning scenarios.

Catalyst

Level 3: Catalyst of Creative Confidence

Enable educators to reimagine learning experiences with technology to empower students to become confident innovators.

Mentor

Level 4: Mentor of Upgraded Mindsets

Introduce educators to the upgraded mindsets that are essential for students to thrive in the 4th Industrial Revolution and successfully navigate unknowns of tomorrow.

Goal

Achieve student readiness for the 4th Industrial Revolution and beyond.

In addition, in response to feedback from our global community of educators, we have also developed three new standalone Professional Development courses designed to give educators even closer guidance as to how to infuse future mindsets like Design Thinking and Computational Thinking in their lessons. There is also a course that guides educators to put all the knowledge together by building their very own Starter Pack!

Intel® SFI Community

The Intel SFI platform is not merely a standalone resource but is intricately woven into a larger ecosystem. This platform serves as a hub for educators, offering access to an interactive and collaborative learning community.

Within this vibrant community, educators can engage in discussions, participate in monthly community webinars, access a rich resource library, and connect with other professionals to share best practices and lesson plans through the Ambassador Program.

The Ambassador Program is a chance to join a global community of innovative educators. It offers invaluable opportunities to share experiences and gain insights from peers. This network provides a platform for enthusiastic teachers to connect both locally and internationally, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas.

Moreover, it facilitates direct contact with industry experts, enabling access to the latest developments and best practices in education. Members also receive exclusive invitations to participate or present at various educational events worldwide, including webinars, international and local conferences, round tables, and more, further enriching their professional growth and impact in the field of education.

Intel® SFI in Polish school practice

As part of a pilot project conducted in Poland, a group of 45 teachers across Poland were invited to participate in the Intel Skills for Innovation program. The project, implemented with the involvement of the Integrated Solutions and the support of the Ministry of Education and Science, was aimed, among other things, to show educators how new technologies can be used effectively to deliver the primary and secondary school curriculum, as well as how to enrich teaching materials and schemes to make lessons more interesting and engaging.

Participants in the pilot project not only had the opportunity to put into practice the tools available under the Intel SFI program, but also to get involved in promoting new learning patterns and digital competence development in Polish schools. Eager participants in the project are now acting as Intel Skills for Innovation experts and organizing workshops for further groups of interested teachers. At the same time, they put into practice the teaching tools of the initiative.

One such person is Iwona Łyczkowska, a mathematics teacher with 14 years' experience, currently attached to the No. 2 Stefan Starzyński Primary School in Nasielsk, where she also serves as deputy director. Iwona commented that "the world of children today is so heavily imbued with technology that it is impossible to implement teaching initiatives in isolation from digital solutions. We need to penetrate this world. We are getting to the point where we are teaching children how to learn and showing them how to use the technological tools available"

Intel's programme inspires teachers to take a more creative approach to teaching, which requires commitment and a change in habits, but translates into great engagement from the children and greater efficiency in their work.

Iwona Łyczkowska, deputy head teacher of the No. 2. Stefan Starzyński Primary School in Nasielsk

Essential IT infrastructure from Integrated Solutions

To effectively exploit the potential of the teaching tools gathered within the Intel Skills for Innovation platform, teachers needed to be provided with equipment that would allow them to work in a comfortable and ergonomic manner. Hardware solutions, including laptops for participants in the pilot implementation of Intel's education initiative, were provided by Integrated Solutions, a long-standing provided by Integrated

Solutions, a long-standing partner of the company. The Inte- grated Solutions team not only provided the technology com- ponent, but also the ongoing hardware solutions and technical support.

Andrzej Zając, CEO of Integrated Solutions reflected "thanks to such projects, we can really support digitization processes in education, not only by providing teachers with high-end equipment, but also by providing active support in its use." To ensure efficient, end-to-end, and remote support for the computers used in the Intel Skills for Innovation pilot, Integrated Solutions offered, among other things, competence support and system resources from its own data center.

For the day-to-day management of the hardware – used by a geographically highly dispersed group of users – Intel Endpoint Mangement Assistant software was used. It enables fully remote management of end devices.

We have set up a dedicated infrastructure in our data centre for the remote management of our notebook fleet, which makes our support highly accessible. Such end-user support, both in terms of the latest technology and the operation of IT equipment, is an important element of educational implementations today.

Andrzej Zając, CEO of Integrated Solutions

Results

Polish educators found that the methods associated with the traditional teaching model no longer work. An innovative approach is becoming necessary to get students interested and involved. The idea is that the tasks given to the students should be woven into new forms of learning, such as workshops requiring teamwork, or a game focused on competition. By providing a universal platform for the exchange of materials, good practices, and experiences, as well as consolidating local examples of interesting teaching initiatives in the form of ready- made educational modules, Intel provides practical support for the digitization of education. The Intel Skills for Innovation program redefines the roles of technology in the education system, while providing the foundation to enable effective teaching activities in a variety of forms and settings: locally, in schools, in a hybrid and remote manner.

Intel Skills for Innovation also fits well with the development priorities and needs of the Polish education sector in terms of digital didactic innovation. Experience from the pilot implementation of the program in Polish schools shows that, with the involvement of the teaching staff, innovative, exciting, engaging, and effective teaching initiatives can be developed on our local ground.

Intel® SFI in Central Dauphin School District - USA

Central Dauphin is a large, diverse school district situated in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The district contains 13 elementary schools and is known for its diverse student population. School administrators, educators and students from the Central Dauphin School District embarked on the Intel Skills for Innovation program and used the Starter Pack activities in their everyday teaching and learning. Teachers of all grade levels learned to easily integrate technology into their lessons with the help of the program's detailed, grade-level appropriate lesson plans, examples, and materials.

Educators from the Central Dauphin School District embraced Intel SFI Starter Pack activities as they introduced technology into their lessons to support new instruction models. Although there was a learning curve at the start as educators were not familiar with software such as Minecraft and CoSpaces, educators took the challenge of learning about these tools in their stride. When they introduced the Starter Pack activities to their students, they were inspired to see how quickly their students took to modern technology tools and software.

2nd Grade Educator, Lauren Vowlor, shared that the use of the Starter Pack activity "Water Cycle" increased student engagement in her class, and prepared her students to learn independently even beyond school. She observed that her students were not only able to animate their water cycles into cartoons, but also went on to independently explore other ways to use the technology beyond the lesson. Even after the Water Cycle activity ended, her students continued to create animations in other lessons and ended up animating another story they had gone through in a separate lesson.

The experience has motivated Lauren Vowlor, and other educators in the Central Dauphin School District, to create even more activities that are modeled after these Starter Pack activities as they realized how such activities empower students with the tools and the skills to own their learning, both in and out of the classroom, setting them on a path to become lifelong learners and innovators.

Students from the Central Dauphin School District work together on creative problem solving while completing the Starter Pack activities

Results

By using the Intel SFI Starter Pack activities, educators in the Central Dauphin School District were able to:

- Provide teachers with examples to initially follow and then build on to integrate technology in their everyday teaching and learning.
- Assist teachers in reaching their goal of moving students along the continuum of Bloom's taxonomy by helping them develop higher order thinking and skills.
- Grow teachers' confidence and skills to adopt new teaching modalities well-suited to hybrid-learning environments and bridge the gap between curriculum concepts and real-world problems.

Shaping the Future of Education

The Intel Skills for Innovation initiative represents a shift in education. By empowering educators with the tools, resources, and support necessary to integrate technology-infused learning experiences into their curriculum, Intel is catalyzing transformation in education, preparing students to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

With the Intel SFI Platform, educators are not only more equipped with the means to foster innovation and creativity but are also connected to a global community of like-minded professionals. This collaborative spirit, coupled with Intel's commitment to advancing education, paves the way for a future where every educator and student can realize their full potential in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Register Today: https://bit.ly/49DOroX

Join the Ambassador Program today:
https://skillsforinnovation.intel.eu/ambassador

Sowing the Seeds of Entrepreneurship

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Today, over 110,000 children are alumni of JEP, having invested in, and launched classroom businesses while still attending Primary school. They proudly declare 'We are Entrepreneurs' and excitedly talk about the moments which are so special for them and the dark hours when a crisis arose but was finally averted. Led by inspirational teachers in the classroom, children all across Ireland grill local and international entrepreneurs who come to visit. "Are you going to sell your business?" "How much money do you make?" "Did you ever fire anybody, and how did it make you feel?" are among the searing questions that are asked of visiting entrepreneurs.

Marie Lynch

Sowing the Seeds of Entrepreneurship

The Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Marie Lynch

As the financial crash was landing in 2007, I was the manager of the Kerry Technology Park in Tralee, Co. Kerry. The Park was established in 2001 on a joint campus with what was then the Institute of Technology, Tralee (now part of Munster Technological University). The creation of a unique blend of education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and business on one campus was a brave move by my employers at the time; Shannon Development and MTU, to create opportunities for future generations. Kerry Technology had nurtured start-ups with a combined value of hundreds of millions of euro and created 500 highly-paid jobs in business and technology by 2013.

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year Programme was slowly starting to reveal Ireland's natural talent in the area, and it was clear that County Kerry had more than its fair share of the entrepreneurial gene pool, having produced several winners of the prestigious EOY programme. Two businesses based in Kerry Technology Park had scooped the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year title - Jerry Kennelly, founder of Stockbyte, a global leader in the global creative stock photography industry and Alan Scroope from Freeflow, an innovative excess inventory management solution for electronic goods worldwide.

There was a tremendous spirit of collaboration and a track record of success among MTU, Shannon Development and the many passionate and successful entrepreneurs based at Kerry Park. Executives from Shannon Development, MTU, and local entrepreneurs worked hand in hand to establish support networks, create new diploma and degree programmes and develop the infrastructure of the Park. There was also a firm conviction that the future economic health of the county depended on growing our own - not foreign direct investment. However, there was still an air of mystery about entrepreneurship among primary and secondary school students. We were looking for ways to make entrepreneurship a valid choice for future generations in Kerry.

Supported by Enda Kelly of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, we put out the call for entrepreneurs to put their heads together to see how we could advance the mission of making Kerry a place where entrepreneurship could prosper. Very quickly, we got approval for a financial commitment by Shannon Development, the Institute of Technology, Tralee (now MTU), and Jerry Kennelly to fund The Young Entrepreneur programme, which would engage second and third-level students in entrepreneurship.

The energy in the Brandon Hotel conference centre was palpable at our 'Blue Sky Day' events as Stripe founders John and Patrick Collison, Digital founder Denis O'Brien, Cully & Sully co-founder Colm O'Sullivan told their stories and set the dreams of the students alive. The students were then invited to conceive their own start-ups with detailed branding, go-to-market and financial plans as they competed for the prize of the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. As the students progressed on their project, they would regularly hear from entrepreneurs and tell their own stories in these high-energy days. The Young Entrepreneur Programme ran from 2007 to 2013.

In parallel, we had begun to experiment with another programme which focussed on fifth and sixth-class primary schoolchildren. Together Eucharia McCarthy of Mary Immaculate Teacher Training College and Breda O'Dwyer, a senior lecturer in entrepreneurship at

Marie Lynch, co-founder and managing director of the Junior Entrepreneur Programme visiting JEP participants in Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh, Cobh, Co Cork

MTU, we developed a road map for a primary schools' programme. Each child would learn about entrepreneurship and how it impacts their community. They would discover their own skills and join different teams to create a business. This was not just a business plan competition, but a real business where each child would invest a small amount and make real products and make profit for the young shareholders!

In 2010 we launched the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP), running it on a pilot basis in primary schools in Counties Kerry and Limerick. Immediately, we could see that the eleven- and twelve-year-old children had a ferocious appetite for a hands-on programme like this. The unique bond that Primary School teachers have with these children put them in the perfect situation to guide them through the steps.

Following the announcement in 2012 that Shannon Development was to be wound down and the Institute of Technology (now MTU) was battling with austerity cutbacks, the budget and support structure for the programme dissipated almost overnight. It seemed like our dream of making Kerry the best place for entrepreneurs in the world was over. But, no, it was just starting!

Dr. Jerry Clifford, the former Head of Development at MTU and I continued to work in a private capacity to save the programmes, but the outlook was bleak in a challenging economic climate. Jerry Kennelly stepped in to rescue the Junior Entrepreneur Programme with an ambitious vision to roll it out to schools throughout the Island of

Ireland. Jerry coordinated with alumni of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Programme to sign up local entrepreneur partners throughout the island, which became a solid foundation to introduce the programme in each county. We were back on track with an ultra-lean financial and organisational model! While the programme is now centrally run from our headquarters in the RDI hub in Killorglin, that entrepreneurial network was critical for its success.

Jerry Kennelly continued to fund the programme with his own resources until 2020, when Enterprise Ireland stepped in to support entrepreneurship initiatives in primary schools. EI has funded the programme since 2020.

JEP continues its long-standing partnership with the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Famous entrepreneurs visit classrooms physically or virtually through JEP broadcasts, telling their stories and answering questions.

While the programme's content, resources and delivery model have been transformed since 2012, the goals are still the same.

Pupils at Bishop Harty National School with their JEP product, the Multi-Sports stand

Today, JEP is a real-life, immersive entrepreneurship skills programme for 5th and 6th-class primary schoolchildren; it nurtures confidence, resilience, creativity, problem-solving and teamwork and engages pupils of all abilities. JEP is substantial, and in-depth. It has a lasting impact on pupils, teachers and the wider school community. It puts a spotlight on entrepreneurship as a career choice and develops invaluable life skills.

JEP builds confidence by allowing children to discover their skills and personal strengths through a series of games and activities, and successful project execution.

The programme facilitates children in successfully creating a real business, working as a class team. The class achieves its goal and experiences success through teamwork - working together, negotiating, compromising and combining the skills and talents of each pupil.

The children must work hard, be persistent, overcome obstacles, and deal with setbacks to achieve their goal, building problem-solving skills and resilience. The programme is directly integrated into several aspects of the school curriculum, including English, Maths, Visual Arts, ICT, Drama and SPHE.

School Spotlight

Joanne Butler, 5th and 5th class teacher at Bishop Harty National School in Ballinree, Co. Tipperary, has participated in the programme on several occasions. In 2023, her class received the Genius Product Award for their JEP business, Multi-Sports Stand. Inspired by their love of sport, the 5th and 6th class pupils designed and made a wooden stand for sports equipment, including hurleys, rackets and helmets.

The pupils enlisted the help of a local carpenter to teach them woodworking skills. They set up a stall at the Barack Obama Plaza to sell their product. Niamh Spain, one of the pupils on the marketing team, spoke about the pride she felt when customers queued up to buy their product. “My proudest moment was meeting Padraig Harrington at the Plaza and selling him one of our stands”, she said. The children made €1,000 profit from their business. Joanne was delighted with the outcome “*JEP offers children so many skills development opportunities – and different ways to shine. It is always the highlight of our school year*”, she commented.

The JEP programme is structured to encourage creativity at every stage. Every pupil gets the opportunity to propose a project idea. The class imagines, designs and creates a product or service, develops marketing content and figures out how to promote and sell it.

Inclusivity is one of the cornerstones of JEP - it is a whole class programme and is suitable for pupils of all abilities. Pupils with learning difficulties and other challenges have participated fully and benefited greatly from the programme.

JEP is a tried and tested model. Teachers are universally positive about its impact, and their passion has helped the programme grow from 700 participants in 2013 to 12,000 participants in the current year. By the end of the 2024 academic year, well over 110,000 primary school children will have completed the programme.

Today, the role that entrepreneurs play in society is much more widely understood, and the children who participate have a much better understanding of their own skills and strengths. This gives them a better view of subjects they might study in the future and the kind of roles they might enjoy in the future.

www.juniorentrepreneur.ie

The Irish Businesses Taking on the EdTech World

EdTech Ireland, is the innovation network for the Irish EdTech community. Launched in 2022, and supporting over 100 members, EdTech Ireland is building a nurturing, community platform for sharing experiences, information, and support for Irish-based EdTech innovators, education leaders, researchers, founders, and funders to promote and develop world-class education technology solutions.

edtechireland.ie

The Irish Businesses Taking on the EdTech World

The EdTech Ireland Network

In the heart of Ireland's bustling tech scene, a quiet revolution is taking place. A revolution that's not just about innovation for the sake of progress, but innovation with a purpose: to make high quality education technology available to everyone. This is the mission that drives the EdTech Ireland Network and its 100+ member companies, it's a mission that's gaining momentum.

The landscape of education is transforming, edtech is at the forefront of this revolution, harnessing the power of technology to shape the future of teaching and learning. The field of education technology in Irish primary and second-level education extends back to the early 1970's and in each subsequent decade the development and integration of technology in education has increased steadily, increasing exponentially during the Covid-period when online and remote teaching and learning solutions became the norm.

Following this period of rapid technology adoption by educators and education institutions there was a glut of offerings in the marketplace, many solutions were custom-built for education, others were simply re-packaged as education products. At this point, in May 2022, 17 Irish edtech businesses came together to found the EdTech Ireland Network. The main purpose at the time was to help promote Irish-based edtechs at home and abroad. The Network has expanded to over 100 members and has become a vibrant community of innovators and educators working together to create impactful learning experiences built on best practice implementation of technology in the classroom.

The Irish EdTech scene is a blend of tradition and innovation, where the rich educational heritage meets cutting-edge technology. It's a sector driven by passion, creativity, and a shared vision of enhancing learning through technology. As these businesses continue to expand their reach and influence, they are not just taking on the EdTech world; they are reshaping it for generations to come.

SchooVR

- Immersive Learning Experiences: SchooVR is integrating Virtual Reality (VR) into the classroom, providing students with engaging and interactive learning experiences. This approach not only makes learning more enjoyable but also enhances retention and understanding of complex subjects.

- Learning Management Systems (LMS): LearnUpon is a company that provides eLearning services to help organizations enhance their corporate learning experiences. Founded in 2012 by Brendan Noud and Des Anderson, LearnUpon enables companies to create separate learning portals or custom learning environments for different categories of users, such as employees, partners, or customers.

- Streamlining Curriculum Processes: Companies like AKARI are collaborating with educational institutions to streamline curriculum processes and version control. Their digital platforms empower academics, enhance learner success, and ensure institutional sustainability.

- Global Collaboration: Many of the EdTech Ireland Network members are not confined to local markets; they are making a global impact. Piero Tintori's Terminalfour, has been recognized for its innovative solutions in Australia and New Zealand, addressing critical educational needs and fostering international collaboration.

- E-Learning Technology: Gavin Cooney's Learnosity, listed by Time Magazine as one of the top edtechs in the world in 2024, is an Irish-based educational technology company that provides a suite of highly scalable, assessment technologies (APIs). These tools enable organizations to incorporate interactive assessment capabilities into any digital product, whether new or existing.

- Innovative Startups: The Irish EdTech scene is home to a growing number of innovative startups like Weeve and Skillsvista, which have brought world-class innovation to education. Irish-based Startups offer diverse services across K-12, higher education, and corporate learning, demonstrating the versatility and creativity of Irish EdTech.

These innovations are just a glimpse into the dynamic and creative world of the Irish EdTech sector. As these companies continue to grow and evolve, they are setting new standards for educational technology and shaping the future of learning on a global scale.

Kells Class

A Unified Learning Management System for Modern English Education

EdTech Ireland Network: GoMappED

Introducing Kells Class : A Unified Learning Management System for Modern English Education

EdTech Ireland Network: GoMappED

Yuxin Wang, CEO and co-founder of GoMappED, brings her specialised expertise in software engineering to the forefront of educational technology. A graduate of the MSc in Advanced Software Engineering from University College Dublin, Wang uses her comprehensive background to spearhead the development of Kells Class. Launched in 2017, GoMappED introduces a pioneering learning management system (LMS) tailored for online English education, designed to overcome the specific challenges faced by educators and students worldwide.

Key Advantages with Kells Class

By actively collaborating with teachers and students daily, GoMappED has crafted Kells Class with three significant advantages over traditional live video apps and conventional LMS platforms.

1. **Automated Administrative Functions:**
   - Kells Class streamlines administrative tasks, enabling educators to focus on teaching. Automation includes booking courses, managing homework, and sending reminders—all enhancing educational efficiency and engagement.
2. **Simplified Course Management:**
   - The centralised dashboard of Kells Class allows for efficient management of lesson plan and real-time monitoring of class progress, ensuring high-quality education is consistently delivered.

Kells Class: Administrator view - all lessons in each time slot during the week with the status

Lesson Name:	Course Name:	Start Date:	Duration:	Lesson Duration:	Status:
Lesson -31	IE240113G8Writing	Lesson -31	2024-05-10 17:10:00	1Hour	Finished

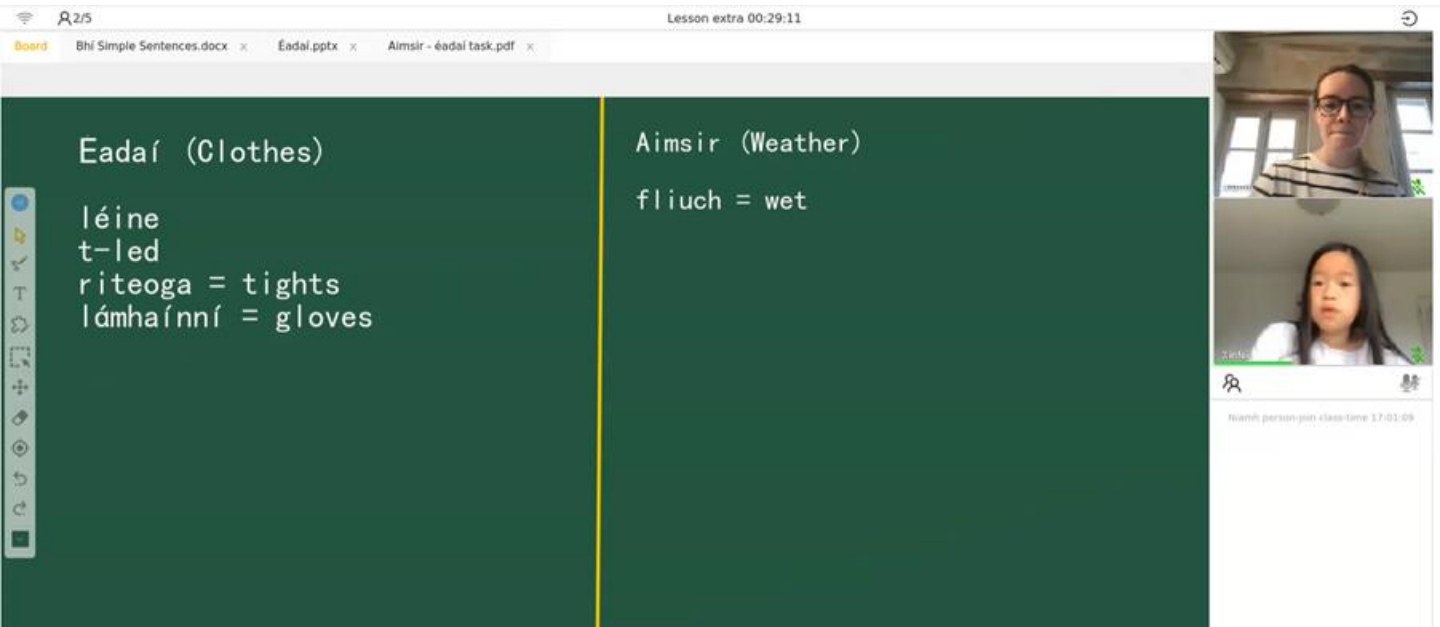
Full Name	Identity	Attendance			Actual Lesson Time Length	Timeline
		Attend	Late	Quit Early		
Elva Chen	Student	Attend	Late	--	58 Minute10 Seconds	
3530876340153	Student	Attend	Late	Quit Early	1Hour12 Seconds	
Conor Kang	Student	Attend	--	Quit Early	1Hour4 Minute22 Seconds	
Hannah	Student	Attend	Late	Quit Early	56 Minute56 Seconds	
Wenen 2	Assistant teacher	--	--	--		
Teacher assistant 4	Assistant teacher	--	--	--		
Teacher assistant 5	Assistant teacher	--	--	--		
Teacher assistant 6	Assistant teacher	--	--	--		
Nicole	Teacher	Attend	Late	--	59 Minute55 Seconds	

- Kells Class offers detailed insights into student engagement and performance, providing actionable data that helps educators tailor their instruction to better meet individual student needs.

Enhancing Classroom Engagement

Creating a classroom environment that fosters meaningful engagement between teachers and students is a major challenge in online education. Kells Class addresses this with features specifically designed to enhance engagement:

- **Customisable Blackboard**: Teachers can adjust the blackboard's appearance for better visibility and eye comfort, enhancing the learning environment.
- **Interactive Features:** Students and teachers can interact in real-time, editing lesson content together, which fosters a collaborative learning atmosphere.



- **Courseware Library Access:**
  Teachers can swiftly access and display the school's supplementary materials directly from the courseware library, enhancing lessons with diverse resources without cumbersome uploads or screen sharing.
- **Shared Notes:**
  The shared notes feature allows teachers to highlight and distribute key content, creating a central repository that reinforces essential learning points.

Teacher Dr. Kerry Gallagher commented, "I think the new platform worked really well. It facilitates a much greater level of engagement which will benefit the students."

Data-Driven Enhancements

Kells Class enhances learning through consistent, data-driven feedback. After each lesson, it generates detailed reports summarising classroom performance, attendance, and outcomes of homework and exams. These reports feature personalised teacher feedback, helping students understand their progress and identify areas for improvement. Teachers use these insights to fine-tune their methods and offer targeted support.

AI Powered Pronunciation Practise

Kells Class supports English learning beyond the classroom with AI-powered Pronunciation Exercises. These exercises help students practise vocabulary, sentences, and paragraphs, guided by a teacher's audio. They receive instant feedback on fluency, accuracy, and integrity, which helps them identify and correct errors. Repeating exercises to achieve target scores allows students to significantly enhance their pronunciation. This personalised approach tailors practice to each student's level, providing feedback that boosts confidence and skills.

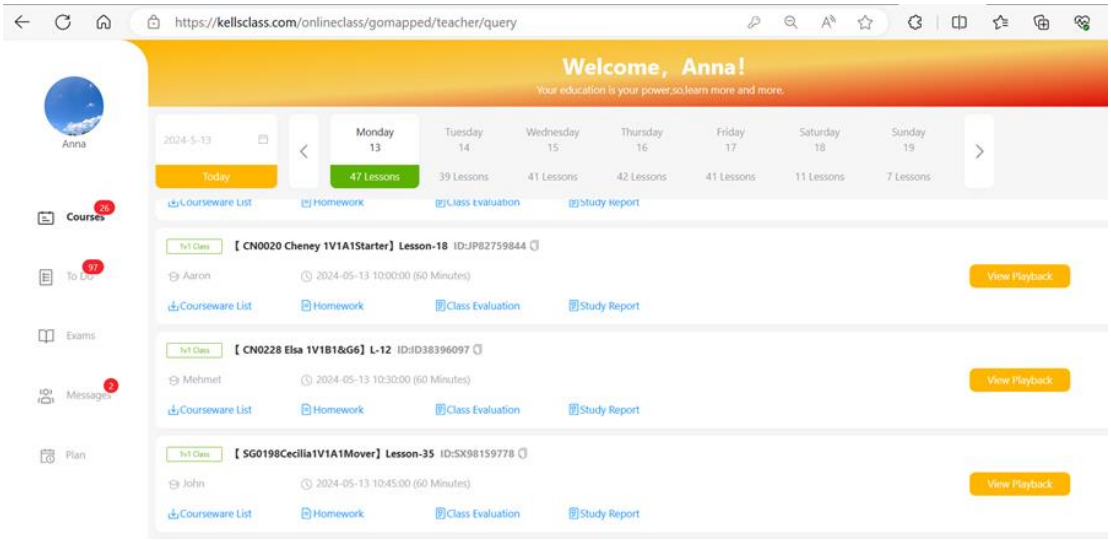
Innovation with AI technologies

GoMappED harnesses AI to meet the unique learning needs of each student with personalised support. Kells Class uses AI innovations to tailor learning paths, ensuring students receive customised assistance. It dynamically adapts to student progress, providing suggestions for improvement and identifying areas for further practice. Using machine learning, Kells Class analyses performance data and recommends exercises to strengthen weaker areas, enhancing individual learning outcomes.

Kells Class: Administrator view - all lessons in each time slot during the week with the status

Empowering Educators and Students

Kells Class enhances personalised learning for both students and educators. It provides teachers with comprehensive insights and collaborative tools to tailor instructional strategies to student needs. The intuitive dashboard simplifies tracking attendance, monitoring engagement, and delivering personalised feedback. Additionally, Kells Class's AI capabilities reduce administrative tasks, enabling educators to focus on developing students' critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills.



The teacher and student's homepage view - one click access to daily training activities

Kells Class has supported students from 18 countries in Europe, Southern America and Asia to join the online English courses successfully.

There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers for Kells Class:

Nigel Corroon - "My first impressions are that it's very good and perfect for teaching online. It's a proper online learning platform as it has a lot of teaching and learning functions like the very important blackboard which is a necessary part of any classroom. You can even get the students to write on the blackboard which is great.

I also like the homework area where you can upload work for the students to do and they can upload their completed homework within the prescribed time limit.

On the homepage, you can check ahead and see what your upcoming classes are and plan your classes well ahead of time. I love that you can upload all your classroom materials the day before and that includes multimedia files as well as documents.

I've used many of the other platforms for online classes, but Kells is a dedicated online teaching platform that just works the way you want it to.

There aren't any real negative aspects to it. However, I wish the text function was a bit more responsive and easier to use.

All in all, it's a great teaching and learning tool and I love using it."

Louis Robert O'Farrell - Westwater “Kells Class is really user-friendly and reliable, and has loads of great features which make planning and delivering online lessons very straightforward, secure, and enjoyable. I've really enjoyed working with this platform!”

Steven Fee “It’s a extremely versatile system that offers an abundance of options and allows teachers to be creative with their lesson. We have so much excellent resources to draw from and support is always available on how to use the platform more effectively.”

The Future of Learning

GoMappED has been selected to join a prestigious AI Accelerator Program organised by NovaUCD and CeaDAR Ireland, Ireland’s National Centre for Applied AI, which provides access to world-class technical and business mentorship. This opportunity allows the GoMappED team to advance their AI learning solutions, further empowering English students to meet their educational goals.

Kells Class continues to lead innovations in learning management systems, merging comprehensive data analytics, AI-powered tools, and user-friendly interfaces. This combination offers a transformative educational experience, meeting the unique needs of each student through automation, personalisation, and engagement, thus enhancing the overall online learning journey for both educators and students.

Based in Dublin, GoMappED combines first-rate online education experts and English teachers from around the world. We offer high-quality yet affordable English education for both kids and adults.

Our innovative live video classrooms and renowned courses have earned recognition from Enterprise Ireland and strong support from the educational communities in Europe and Asia.

www.exploringedtech.ie