

SCEC Covid response meeting

Tuesday 16th June 2020, online

Attendees:

Kate Farrell (KF)
Fiona McNeill (FMc)
Greg Michaelson (GM)
Brian Clark (BC)
Alastair Irons (AI)
Carol Marsh (CM)
Claire Griffiths (CGr)
Debbie McCutcheon (DMc, standing in for
Claire Gillespie, SDS)
Greg Reid (GR)
Iain Thompson (IT)
Karen Petrie (KP)

Robbie Paterson (RP)
Tommy Lawson (TL)
William Hardie (WH)
Peter Donaldson (PD)
Rachel Menzies (RM)

Apologies:

Mark Zarb, RGU
Judy Robertson, University of Edinburgh
Alastair MacGregor, SSERC
Claire Gillespie, SDS
Mark Tennant, CAS

Mark Zarb pre-meeting notes:

Are we equipping educators with the right tools to deal with online learning (tech tools, software tools, pedagogies)?

Students will be very isolated, so how do we make them feel part of a community of practice?

Minutes:

Signposting quality resources:

BC met with teachers and suggests there are plenty tools for teaching web dev and python programming, but none for databases and SQL. Many teachers developing N5/H resources but not blended learning. We need 4-5min short bitesized videos and then quizzes to test learning on all sections of the curriculum

KP suggested database online resources that she uses for online summer school.
<https://www.simbla.com/database-createdatabase>, <https://groklearning.com/course/intro-sql-1/> as well as https://padlet.com/k_petrie/crd26yixpxbh

PD suggested Runestone online resources. Open educational online platform.
<https://runestoneinteractive.org/pages/library.html>. PD also shared <https://csfieldguide.org.nz/en/interactives/> and the University of Glasgow Primary Technologies Wakelet <https://wke.lt/w/s/Kp8fWN>

BC mentioned a small group of teachers collaborating, but we could share and join in?

RP suggested focusing on sharing the work that is happening rather than creating new resources. BC pointed out that some LAs do not participate in GLOW which adds to the challenges of sharing and working together

TL suggested consulting teachers to find out what they need and want. BC suggested approaching a group already formed for Primary teachers interested in CS and tech.

PD pointed out blended learning approaches tend to be individual. It's not as rich an experience, where you're not learning from peers. Is there scope to arrange group approaches to blended learning?

FMc said equality of access is an issue. Is there anything we can do, working with teachers to support them. BC said use of unplugged activities is good to stop learners accessing devices for 8 hours a day.

Sharing experiences:

RM said that sharing stories and experiences is important and valued. KP pointed out sharing negative experiences is also important! PD highlighted Sally Fincher's research showing you don't get teachers adopting new approaches by pushing them.

KP volunteered her experiences of doing video feedback which might be relevant to Primary teachers as well as lecturers

MZ is working with SICSA and tech champions to record webinars on hot topics - perhaps these could be useful to others (inc FE and Secondary), and a useful model for creating more videos?

GR pointed out there are lots of expertise in the group but we can't fix everything. Plan C put in a wonderful network of hubs - could we revive that??

Talking about writing to all LAs and ES and SFC - saying we are here and requesting a conversation. What can we do Scotland-wide that facilitates others working together.

Possible actions -

- Survey teachers about the issues
- Work together to develop blended resources for BGE
- Publish policy or recommendations
- Conference or online webinars on sharing experiences (Like MHOnline or as part of Data Education conference or separate)

IT formally asked BCS about getting a webpage on the BCS site

WH added if there are common issues across CS & STEM we can also help pursue via the Learned Societies Group which has policy traction at parliament and government level. FMc added that she and KP are also members of this. There is a meeting next week that KP is attending.

Identified actions -

- **Survey teachers** about issues and what help they want from us - **FM and KF to do in July for distribution in Aug**
- **Online webinars** as part of MHOnline or as part of Data Education conference w/c 31st Aug - 5th Sept. Could include sharing experiences and sharing tools, KP talking about video feedback (and databases?), KF talking about unplugged BGE and blended, MZ talking about tools like repl.it, PD talking about runestone, Microbit shared classroom tool.....
KF and FM to confer with committee to discuss this provision
- **Collaborate with SSERC** about publish policy or recommendations - **FM to talk with AMc**
- **Feedback the overview of this meeting to the Learned Society Group** to see where potential areas of shared interest with other subjects are. - **KP has done this**
- **The committee needs a secretary - call to members for a volunteer**