



Getting the Best out of Bett 2019

Top tips, new features
and must-see seminars

With notes on the Education
Show, and the results of our Ed
tech Predictions 2019 survey

Terry Freedman
January 2019

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INTRODUCTION

The annual ed tech extravaganza aka the Bett show is almost upon us, and this year it is being run by a different organisation. It's early days, but the following is promising I think:

- The seminar sessions seem more school-oriented than has been the case in the last few years. That's my impression anyway.
- There is a downloadable agenda! It's rather sad when a pdf version of an agenda causes whoops of joy, but it is so much better than trawling through the truly dreadful online version. It's not as good as a downloadable spreadsheet, but at least it's a start. My next request if any of the organisers happen to be reading this: make the option to add a session to your calendar work with other applications than only Microsoft.
- There are some new sections -- see below.
- The Education Show is going on at (almost) the same time next door: on the 24th and 25th January.

- The remainder of this document is divided into two main sections: a set of useful, generic, tips, followed by a selection of the sessions that appeal to me. Note that these are very much personal choices, just to give you a flavour of what's on offer, but you should definitely download the agenda yourself and select your own.

USEFUL TIPS

The following is good advice based on experience.

Register In Advance

You **can** register on the day, but it takes a while, and only serves to reduce your time looking at stuff. Registering takes 5 minutes, using the links on the Bett show and Education show websites, given below.

Buy A Travelcard

If you come from out of London then you may not know that you will need to pay for fares in advance. Also, buses no longer accept cash. A one day travelcard will get you around hassle-free and also save money on individual fares.

Plan Your Visit

Bett is so vast that it's worth spending a bit of time planning your visit. The list of exhibitors can be searched for on the Bett website. You can use the filters there to help you plan who to see. For example, you could select Secondary, and Tablets, and you'll be presented with a list of suppliers that meet both criteria. On the app, you can also see where the suppliers are on a map of the venue.

Walk Around Aimlessly

This is the exact opposite of the preceding point, of course. Nevertheless, there is definitely mileage in walking around without any particular goal in mind, because you may well come across something you didn't know was there, or that you needed to see.

Get Some CPD

There's an extensive seminar programme, so if you can do be sure to look through the list on the Bett website or on the app, and select a few. They are all free, but some, like the Escape Room, need to be booked in advance, while others, such as those in the Bett Arena, tend to be very popular and have long queues to get in. The answer? Plan to start lining up early!

Personal Comfort

Take a bottle of water and wear comfortable shoes. Excel, where the exhibition is held, is air-conditioned, which dries the atmosphere, and the floors are concrete, which kills your feet. Yes, there is a carpet, but one so thin you probably wouldn't notice if they took it away.

Business Cards

Get some business cards made and take them with you. They make networking a lot easier and you can use them to enter the various prize draws that are usually to be found!

Take Water With You

Plus, look out for free bottles of water on some stands.

Wear Comfortable Shoes

The floors at Excel are concrete, covered by what feels like a really thin carpet. If you're not sensible, your feet will be killing you by the end of the day.

Further Reading

[30 things to do before the Bett show](#)

[8 Sample Questions To Ask Educational Technology Suppliers](#)

[Education Technology 2018: A Personal Retrospective](#)

Bett Pointers

www.bettshow.com

Excel centre

1. Download the [Ed tech Checklist](#).
2. Attend ViewSonic FB Live
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1136845223149364/>, and claim a free one year subscription to myViewBoard, a cloud platform that helps you prepare present, and participate in class.
3. Visit Bett futures
This is not new, but most of the companies to be found in it will be. This is the area where ed tech start-ups -- often a single entrepreneur or even a teacher with a dream -- may be found. The products are often innovative, sometimes quirky, and always interesting.
4. Visit The Escape Room
This year you'll be able to experience being in an immersive room without the pressures of someone trying to sell you something. It involves solving puzzles to work through a series of Crystal Maze experiences.
5. Late closing
Not all teachers can get time off school to attend, but those who work locally may be able to get along to the evening sessions this year. These run from 6pm to 7:30pm, and consist of an event with, one hopes, networking opportunities.

6. Peer-to-peer connect
On the subject of networking, there is going to be an area where people can connect up for conversations. I [suggested](#) something like this nearly seven years ago, because it has been run very successfully at the ISTE conference in America. It could be one of the best aspects of the show if it helps you make useful contacts.
7. Download the brand new app
The app for this year's Bett has been beefed up. According to the blurb, it is powered by AI to make recommendations for who to meet with, based on your usage of the app over time. The usefulness of that remains to be seen, but managing seminars is now much easier and, very usefully, you can gather up all the information you've amassed, such as seminars attended, suppliers visited and notes you've made, into a ready-made report that you can send forward on to your colleagues and headteacher.
8. There is more to say, but sadly we don't have the space, so look at the [Bett information page](#) for further information.
9. At last: a downloadable agenda!
[https://www.bettshow.com/_media/Files-\(PDFs,-Word-docs,-floorplan,-etc.\)/Master-2018-Agenda-9Jan.pdf](https://www.bettshow.com/_media/Files-(PDFs,-Word-docs,-floorplan,-etc.)/Master-2018-Agenda-9Jan.pdf)

MY PERSONAL BETT HIGHLIGHTS

Bett Arena

- 23/01/2019 | 10:30–10:45 2018 Bett Innovation Index: emerging trends in Ed tech
- 23/01/2019 | 10:45–11:00 Official opening of Bett 2019
- 23/01/2019 | 13:30–14:00 Education policy: too precious to be left to the politicians
- 23/01/2019 | 17:15–17:30 Shaping future minds: problem solving with open source technology
- 24/01/2019 | 13:30–14:00 Empowering your students to become critical consumers of the news
- 24/01/2019 | 15:00–15:30 Making technology work for schools, lessons from EDUCATE
- 24/01/2019 | 16:45–17:15 An author's perspective: making writing exciting!
- 25/01/2019 | 15:00–15:45 Inspection, safety and security online
- 25/01/2019 | 17:00–17:15 Why we should be teaching our children to be hackers

Schools Theatre

The only session that appeals to me is this one:

- 25/01/2019 | 15:30–16:00 Fake News: How can technology help separate fact from fiction?

Post-16 Theatre

- 23/01/2019 | 10:15–10:45 Space: the next frontier in education
I think the ideas from this could be applied lower down in the school.
- 24/01/2019 | 14:00–14:30 From education to employment with BBC Bitesize
- 25/01/2019 | 11:00–11:30 Redefining student success through STEAM and the element of play
- 26/01/2019 | 10:30–11:30 Sleep and wellbeing: GCSE's
- 26/01/2019 | 12:30–13:30 Mastering the art of retention: GCSE's

Solutions Den 1

- 23/01/2019 | 15:40–16:00 Putting impact at the heart of your ed tech procurement
- 25/01/2019 | 11:00–11:20 Implementing Technology is Easy – Said No-One Ever

Solutions Den 2

- 23/01/2019 | 12:20–12:40 Digital skills: K-12 curriculum transformation on a country scale
- 25/01/2019 | 11:00–11:20 Simple Solutions to Teacher CPD with Bloomsbury Education

Peer-To-Peer Connect

- 23/01/2019 | 15:00–16:00 Help DfE improve its service to schools

Education Show Pointers

www.education-show.com/

Excel centre, Hall S4

MY PERSONAL EDUCATION SHOW

HIGHLIGHTS

Pedagogy In Practice

- 24-Jan-19 | 10:30–11:00 A Curriculum For The 21st Century
- 24-Jan-19 | 11:50–12:20 Monitoring Progress In A Meaningful And Manageable Way
- 24-Jan-19 | 13:50–14:20 Designing Spaces For Learning
- 24-Jan-19 | 15:50–16:20 Making Internal Professional Learning (CPD) Work For You: Save Money, Save Time, And Boost Teacher Ownership
- 25-Jan-19 | 10:30–11:00 Excite, Explore, Excel (E3L): A Connected And Powerful Curriculum
- 25-Jan-19 | 13:10–13:40 How Do You Want Your School To Change The World? Real-Life Cutting-Edge Research Projects For Your Students And Teachers

- 25-Jan-19 | 15:50–16:20 Helping Your Pupils To Become Fake News Detectives!

Policy In Practice

- 24-Jan-19 | 10:30–11:00 Department of Education Keynote Address
- 24-Jan-19 | 13:50–14:20 Curriculums And Policies Change, But Teaching Doesn't
- 25-Jan-19 | 10:30–11:00 Education Trends: What To Watch 2019
- 25-Jan-19 | 11:10–11:40 The MAT Landscape – State of Play
- 25-Jan-19 | 13:10–13:40 Research Schools: School-Led Support For Evidence Based Practice
- 25-Jan-19 | 13:50–14:20 Putting The Professional Back Into Professional Development

School Business

- 24-Jan-19 | 12:30–13:00 Achieving More With Less
- 24-Jan-19 | 13:50–14:20 NFER Research: The Future Of Teacher Supply – How To Retain Good Teachers
- 24-Jan-19 | 14:30–15:00 The ESFA And How It Works For You

Introduction To Our Ed Tech Predictions For 2019!



Photo by [Andreas Kind](#) on [Unsplash](#)

WE ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What do you think will be the main things we'll be seeing in ed tech in 2019?

What do you think will be the main ed tech challenges in 2019?

Any other comments?

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BlueSky (Atkey Solutions Ltd)

The Coming Ed Tech

Ed tech can help schools to keep teacher-pupil interaction at the heart of learning but challenges in AI lie ahead.

In my mind, the biggest immediate challenge is preserving the essence of the very best in teaching while using ed tech tools to reduce workload and increase efficiencies in tracking and monitoring and also in supporting learning.

So I hope deep consideration will be given to the impact of education technology on supporting teacher effectiveness and how it can help to avoid staff burn-out and declining morale. We need to be sure that we don't just throw technology into the classroom in the hope that some of it sticks.

We must also ensure that, in adopting technology progressively, we don't throw the baby out with the bath water! In other words, that we continue to respect and value the immense contribution that teacher-pupil interaction brings to enhancing learning and student progress. Let's keep what's good, really distil it and replicate it, and then bring in tools to replace the things that can be automated.

Challenges

In 2019, I think the debate around AI will hot up along with the debate around the use of unproven ed tech in the classrooms. In both cases, there's a risk of using the profession and the students as guinea pigs as we try to establish 'what works' but this could have a significant negative impact.

Proper debate needs to be had around the integrity of the algorithms used in AI in the classrooms and the use of the data from 'minors' to track and plot their future trajectory.

And real care needs to be taken in the use of AI in a predictive context, especially when algorithms are unproven and when sample sets used to refine machine learning can be limited by those populations that are engaging with it.

So while I think this is an amazing time and so exciting as we move deeper into the ed tech world, it brings into focus the question of what really differentiates the role of the teacher and their unique contribution to learning and how that sets the profession apart from AI.

We need to consider this carefully before racing forward.

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand E43

ASCL Annual Conference Stand 1

Website

www.blueskyeducation.co.uk

Denise Inwood, Managing Director of BlueSky.

Denise has been nominated in the leadership and management category of the 2019 Bett

Awards. [@blueskymatters](https://twitter.com/blueskymatters)

Cypher Learning

The Coming Ed Tech

I think many business organizations and educational institutions will see more blended learning initiatives being implemented in instruction in 2019. The brick-and-mortar classroom will be even more inclusive in terms of learners' needs than in the previous year, and the virtual classroom will gain more terrain. Technologies for learning are developing at impressive rates and I think the e-learning industry will take more steps towards immersive learning.

Challenges

Keeping up with ed-tech advancements is a challenge in itself — and educators of all sorts still need a lot of support in doing this — but I think the biggest challenge for 2019 will be to actually redesign the role of the educator.

Changing perceptions about a profession and what an educator should do is so much harder than getting new technology. Things have already started to change in the right direction but there's still a lot of work to be done; maybe even beyond 2019.

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand F302

Website

www.neolms.com

Graham Glass, CEO of CYPHER LEARNING

[@CypherLearning](#)

The Coming Ed Tech

Virtual reality (VR) is going to be the big one! I believe we're going to see it become more and more incorporated into the curriculum to support learning through immersive environments.

From EDLounge's perspective, our development plan for 2019 is to ensure that English, maths and science can be taught more functionally and in smaller chunks via the virtual classroom so that these topics are better understood by students.

Challenges

I believe main challenge will stem from teachers' workload: ensuring that teachers are as upskilled and knowledgeable as they can be when it comes to technology will be a challenge because so many of them simply won't have the time to practice using technology.

Today's students are millennials; they gravitate towards technology and have a natural affinity for it. If their teachers don't have the technological knowledge to answer their questions or challenge them, how can they keep them engaged with the subject?

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand D150 and Stand D170

Website

<https://edlounge.com>

Sam Warnes [@EDLounge](#)

Education Vision Consultancy Ltd

The Coming Ed Tech

I hope to see the emergence of tested tools supporting mental health and well-being for all — staff as well as pupils. [Workrave](#) is an interesting little piece of software, which although geared towards prevention of RSI, could also be used to support improved general health as well as well-being benefits.

I expect to see an increasing range of off-the-shelf offerings of "Artificial Intelligence as a commodity" products, where ordinary users can add AI to their own projects, by configuring, e.g., a standard neural network. These will start to filter into the education space.

AI may also start to filter into data analysis, with tools that assist with spotting trends and patterns that could be easy to miss otherwise, to support higher impact decision-making.

Challenges

I find it hard to look beyond perennial issues such as specialist staff recruitment and retention, good quality technical support at sensible prices and trying to make good use of limited budgets.

Any Other Comments?

I expect to see growing examination of how we pay for our tech, especially software. It is not realistic to expect to benefit from the fruits of others' hard won specialist knowledge for free.

Sometimes that does happen (e.g. software that is written as part of an academic collaboration), but often the costs are not explicit or fully understood, as has been the case with social media. As with supermarket loyalty cards, benefits appeared to be free; now it is better understood that the cost has been to allow our personal data to be exploited for the financial gain of others.

What will happen to those cloud-based services that many rely on and were taken up in the days when no explicit charges were made? Will providers want to start seeing a return on their investments? Some have started to introduce charges already, or have downgraded their free offering to make premium products more attractive. It seems likely others will follow.

Website

<http://www.educationvision.co.uk>

Mark Baker [@EducationVision](#)

The Coming Ed Tech

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality (AR) continue to be the exciting new addition to the ed tech range of resources.

While GCSEPod is an advocate of the power of visualisation in learning, and AR brings a new visual experience to the classroom, it will be interesting to see if there is any measured additional impact of AR and AI, on attainment.

With tight budgets schools will be looking for technologies that are proven to support their specific needs: streamlining the workload for teachers, providing them with automated and instant data and analytics and drive outcomes in learning. Due to educators often having to wear more than one hat and teach outside their specialism, it is also becoming ever more important to build confidence within the faculty and give them the tools they need to carry out these duties with confidence and be assured the content is there with a minimal drain on their time.

Challenges

There is nothing more frightening at the moment than the very real horror story of funding in education. This is exactly where Ed tech rides in on its white horse.... There are bold claims that there's more money in the system than ever before but equally, there are now more pupils than ever before; 8.5 million and growing by 100K per year. The National Funding Formula (NFF) is a significant improvement on the previous system, but the overall level of funding to schools is too low. After the NFF was announced, the reality became clear, that per pupil funding across the board will fall 4.6 per cent by 2020. Is there a perfect storm brewing, or are we already in the eye of it?

So, some might say that now is not the time to be investing in Ed tech, but for informed, senior leadership teams, quite the opposite is true. They recognise that for maximum impact, with modest outlay, embedding the right technologies with supporting content within the teaching framework might very well save the day; bringing positivity, reducing workload and workplace stress.

Ed tech has been shown to reduce teachers' work load, and in turn, assist with mental health and wellbeing. The knock-on effect is demonstrated through reduced absence as well as addressing the industry's larger retention and recruitment *bête noir*. If technology does address these issues, resulting in staff being more motivated, then the financial burden of the ever-present cost of recruitment could be minimised; releasing funds for other products that work hard for all, for pupils, teachers and the whole school. Tech has changed the way teachers teach – a quote from one of our schools explains this very well: "Staff worked in teams to include GCSEPod in lesson plans, utilise it for flipped learning and as a homework task. GCSEPod has become a large part of our day to day teaching practices and it has never felt like a bolt on. By working together, we have simultaneously decreased workload whilst increasing the quality and richness of lessons within the school." Dr. Kevin Hylands, principal, The George Eliot School.

Ed tech is not there to take over but to be an aid. Here at GCSEPod we do not seek to replace the teacher but aim to capture the enthusiasm, knowledge and experience of teachers and continue to provide that to students, after they've left the school gates.

Having been in the sector for over 10 years (from before when 'Ed Tech' was a thing), my view is that we are in the eye of the storm, where there is only one way to go – out. The government has finally realised that it is no longer sustainable to continue to under-fund the NHS – surely it is only a matter of time before it realises the same about education, allowing teachers to make the right decisions to invest in resources that work.

Conference Stands (If Known)

Bett stand B114

SSAT stand F14

ASCL Annual Conference stand 4 & 21

COBIS Annual conference

Website

www.gcsepod.com

Jayne Cook [@gcsepod](https://twitter.com/gcsepod)

Although there are some similarities between this entry and the other [GCSEPod](#) entry, there are differences too, which is why both have been published.

The Coming Ed Tech

There is likely to be a lot of A.I. focus; the new kid on the block (although it has been around for some time). Unfortunately, although a nice to have – the proof will be in the pudding as to whether there is any hard evidence of impact on results/ attainment.

Ed tech is streamlining the workload for teachers, providing them with automated and instant data and analytics; which are becoming ever more necessary to prove and drive outcomes in learning. Due to educators often having to wear more than one hat and teach outside their specialism, it is becoming ever more important to build confidence within the faculty and give them the tools they need to carry out these duties with confidence and be assured the content is there so no time is wasted.

Challenges

There is nothing more frightening at the moment than the very real horror story of funding in Education. This is exactly where Ed tech rides in on its white horse....

There are bold claims that there's more money in the system than ever before but equally, there are now more pupils than ever before; 8.5 million and growing by 100K per year. The NFF is a significant improvement on the previous system, but the overall level of funding to schools is too low. After the NFF was announced, the reality became clear, that per pupil funding across the board will fall 4.6% by 2020. Is there a perfect storm brewing, or are we already in the eye of it?

So, some might say that now is not the time to be spending on Ed Tech, but for those SLT's in the know, quite the opposite is true, as they realise that for maximum impact, with modest outlay, embedding the right technologies with supporting content within the teaching framework might very well save the day, bringing positivity, reducing workload and workplace stress.

Supporting staff with these technologies has been shown to reduce their load, assisting with mental health and wellbeing - the knock-on effect shown through reduced absence as well as addressing the industry's larger retention and recruitment *bête noir*. Should these issues be addressed, resulting in staff being more motivated, then the financial burden of the ever-present cost of recruitment could be minimised, releasing funds for other products that work hard for all, for pupils, teachers and the whole school.

Tech has changed the way teachers teach – a quote from Dr. Kevin Hylands, principal, The George Eliot School explains this very well:

“Staff worked in teams to include GCSEPod in lesson plans, utilise it for flipped learning and as a homework task. GCSEPod has become a large part of our day to day teaching practices and it has never felt like a bolt on. By working together, we have simultaneously decreased workload whilst increasing the quality and richness of lessons within the school.”

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Having been in the sector for over 10 years (from before when ‘Ed Tech’ was a thing), my view is that we are in the eye of the storm, where there is only one way to go – out. The government has finally realised that it is no longer sustainable to continue to under-fund the NHS – surely it is only a matter of time before it realises the same about Education, allowing teachers to make the right decisions to invest in resources that work.

Conference Stands (If Known)

Bett stand B114

Website

www.gcsepod.com

Anthony Coxon [@gcsepod](https://twitter.com/gcsepod)

ICT Direct

The Coming Ed Tech

More budget squeezing - sometimes schools focus budgets on other areas of the school, leaving the tech departments with little or no investment.

Challenges

Schools being able replace old computer equipment. By that I mean that some schools have PCs which are sometimes 10 years old and past their working lives. Replacing them will require creative ways of thinking. Does the school reorganise the placing of hardware so that they have dedicated suites that can be booked, as opposed to a small number of PCs in every classroom.

Do they use laptops/tablets instead of PCs, so that they can be transported from classroom to classroom (schools need to consider how the laptops/tablets will be stored and charged, also there is more risk of damage to these and the batteries will eventually degrade).

Do schools now look to buying refurbished computers instead of paying a lot more for new equipment (we have seen a marked increase in the number of schools buying our refurbished hardware which is low cost, reliable and has long warranties).

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand E150

EduGeek Conference (No dates or stand numbers yet)

ANME Conferences (No Dates or stand numbers yet)

Website

www.ict-direct.co.uk

John Graham [@ict_direct](#)

The Coming Ed Tech

Hopefully we will start to see the differentiation between Ed tech products that have significant impact for teachers and students and those that do not. More and more focus is shifting towards impact, and rightly so!

Poor implementation is the number one reason that Ed tech products fail to have an impact in schools, according to a recent study. Hopefully both the buyers (schools) and the Ed tech providers will start to take this seriously, with it being a core part of a purchase process!

Focus on challenges for teachers and students (workload and wellbeing) will likely continue, whilst budgets remain low. Effective tools which help alleviate these challenges will likely gain traction in schools.

Challenges

It continues to be a very busy space. Teachers are getting an overload of information and it's challenging to get an overview of the offerings, what ties into which aspects of learning, and how products differ vs each other.

Schools still do not have a holistic view of what a digital strategy for a school entails. It is not simply having a computer lab or a 3D printer and hope that yields results. Rather, a school needs to see it in a much wider context - how does the technology work with the current ecosystem, how does it fit into a teacher's pedagogy, how do we ensure we have systems or products that complement each other?

Crucially, technology is often viewed with deep scepticism from the educational world, and it is important to nuance this. Technology is neither a threat nor a saviour in education. Rather, when correctly designed, it should be an enabler of improving the existing ecosystem, by enhancing the role of the teacher and simplifying differentiation of teaching based on each student's needs

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand F72

Website

<https://www.kognity.com/>

Karin Bjerde @kognity

KUBO Robotics

The Coming Ed Tech

In 2018, we have seen a shift from STEM learning to a larger focus on incorporating creativity and more practical-based learning. Throughout 2019, we're likely to see how this can be best positioned in the classroom. Rather than simply providing resources to en-gage pupils in STEM subjects, it will be more about demonstrating how to understand and communicate with technology and teaching children the purpose of what they are learning and how it can be applied in practice.

As well as this, I think we will start to see an increase in technology that supports "adaptive learning". For instance, using artificial intelligence (AI) technologies will mean that teachers can gather data that not only demonstrates how individuals are learning, but also identifies the gaps in a student's understanding. This information can then be used by teachers to effectively and efficiently tailor programmes of learning to individual needs.

Challenges

With the rapid pace of technology growth and the increasing number of new resources appearing in the market, it remains difficult for schools and teachers to identify the right resources and tools that will make an impact on teaching and learning.

Educators should look for technology resources that have a longevity in terms of meeting curriculum demands and should try to avoid fads. For example, learning to code is a foundational skill that, once grasped, can be applied to many aspects of technology. A screen-free approach to coding, also has the benefits of not requiring expensive computer equipment or software and provides a playful, hands-on experience, which in turn helps develop other important skills such as creative-thinking, collaboration and problem-solving.

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand F70

Website

<https://kubo.education/>

Preben Hansen [@KUBO_Robot](#)

Lego Education

The Coming Ed Tech

Education technology is still very much at the forefront of leveraging and transforming teaching and learning. However, with the sheer amount of resources available to teachers, there has been a shift from just buying technology for technology's sake, to investing in tools that really demonstrate value, and make teaching simpler, effective and more streamlined.

Another trend that will continue into 2019 is the importance of developing skills that will help children flourish in their future lives. Skills that not only develop their academic ability, but those that teach them about the world and how to thrive. These skills should be developed throughout a child's education and should start from as early as preschool in order to build foundational knowledge which should then be reinforced all the way through to secondary school, encouraging the continuum of learning. Incorporating the arts within this can really engage a child with their learning and the development of skills needed for the future.

We've seen a big focus on STEM throughout 2018, but as we move into the New Year, we will see even more emphasis on the role the arts can play in this. The STEAM movement, really brings creativity to the forefront of every lesson and encourages children to think about concepts in a more creative way, giving them the freedom to express and explore on a deeper level. It also gives teachers greater flexibility which is especially important at a time when there is a lack of subject specialists; for instance, having resources that demonstrate coding across a variety of subjects allows mainstream teachers to teach computing in a way that is simple, engaging and incorporates other topics.

Challenges

As I've just touched on, there is a lack of subject specialist teachers as well as a varied degree of confidence that still exists when it comes to teaching STEAM. We are still seeing that sometimes teachers feel that they lack the confidence or the skills to teach STEAM in the classroom, especially if they specialise in a subject which hasn't necessarily before incorporated coding and robotics.

This is why it's important for teachers to choose the right resources in order to aid and advance teaching and learning; if it isn't adding value, then there simply is no point. It can be difficult to think how coding and robotics relate to Romeo and Juliet in an English literature class, but this is where STEAM learning can be particularly powerful. By introducing the arts, students can explore the narrative, themes and characters in a more expressive, creative way that allows them to get hands-on and bring the story to life; all while teaching them essential coding skills.

It's our duty as providers of education technology to listen, guide and support teachers wherever we can to help them be the best teacher possible.

Conference Stands (If Known)

Bett Stand F70

Website

<https://education.lego.com/en-gb>

Joslyn Adcock

Lexplore

The Coming Ed Tech

I think teachers have woken up to the value of gamification in encouraging children to learn. There is nothing like the promise of instant rewards and virtual vouchers to make a pupil try and try again until they grasp their seven times table, so it is likely will see the use of gamification expand across all subjects and year in 2019. VR (Virtual Reality) too will continue to be one major growth area as there is nothing quite like allowing a child in Cornwall, London or Dumfries the chance to visit Peru or World War I to ensure learning sticks.

Without doubt, for teachers, 2019 will be marked by the wholesale adoption of more artificial intelligence and machine learning tools in the classroom. Using AI to automate certain tasks such as assessments and marking will free up more time to concentrate on the uniquely human aspects of the classroom such as building relationships, pastoral care, social-emotional skills and, above all, teaching. With workload pressures as they are any tech that can help the personalisation and differentiation of learning, like AI, can will dramatically reduce the pressure on teachers.

Challenges

For schools, the main challenge is keeping pace with the fast changing nature of new technology and software. Therefore ensuring teaching staff are fully trained and on board with any technological change is key to ensuring that return on investment is achieved.

Any Other Comments?

Lexplore is a company that has developed a rapid reading assessment tool, powered by eye-tracking and artificial intelligence technologies which takes just a few minutes to analyse a child's current reading level. This process provides teachers with real-time data that directly correlates to a student's reading capability, so teachers can properly address literacy achievement gaps with targeted interventions. Find out more at www.lexplore.co.uk.

Website

www.lexplore.co.uk

Stephen Park [@lexploreUK](https://twitter.com/lexploreUK)

Microsoft

The Coming Ed Tech

In 2019, we'll see a continued focus on the inclusive classroom, and solutions that benefit students of all abilities. Inclusive design, and built-in, mainstream solutions to benefit all will continue to gain in popularity.

AssisiveTech can not only help students, but help teachers scale and save time in the classroom. In addition, tools that help amplify student voice will keep growing, and there will be continued interest in STEM and coding.

Challenges

A big challenge in Ed tech for 2019 will be around data privacy, and the repercussions of GDPR and related changes in how Ed tech companies gather and use data.

Conference Stands (If Known)

BETT Stand E300

FETC

TCEA

ISTE

Website

<https://educationblog.microsoft.com>

Mike Tholfsen @mtholfsen

St Theresa School

The Coming Ed Tech

Increased use of AR in text materials. Easier to use classroom recording tools for teachers and students. Cross platform collaboration based stream services via the Cloud.

Challenges

Same as always, funding.

Kenneth Westgate

Next steps

I hope you have found this document interesting and useful. Here are a few suggestions as to what to do next.

- If you go to Bett or the Education Show, blog or tweet or Instagram about it. Knowledge shared increases the shared pool of knowledge exponentially.
- Keep an eye on my website, [ICT & Computing in Education](#), for updates related to my experience at Bett and the Education Show.
- Subscribe to my newsletter, [Digital Education](#), for news, views and reviews related to ed tech.