

PRESS RELEASE 2016

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

UK SCHOOLS RECEIVE NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS FOR COLLABORATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

UK TEACHERS CELEBRATED THE 11TH ANNUAL ETWINNING UK CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP IN NOTTINGHAM FROM 24-26 JUNE 2016.

eTwinning is a free and secure online network, where teachers from more than 40 countries can find partners, work on projects and enable pupil collaboration across any subject area. The programme provides teachers with high quality professional development opportunities which contribute directly to a teachers' ability to collaborate with peers and schools in different countries.

The British Council-led event saw over 100 educators from across the UK and beyond attend a series of professional development workshops based on the theme of 'digital literacy', which included: **Twitter for CPD; leading learning and measuring impact through eTwinning; the BBC Microbit; Greenscreening; Minecraft; Sketchnoting; refugee and migrant student integration, British Council 'World Voice' and 'Shakespeare' resources; the 100 word challenge, Erasmus+ funding; and top tips and tricks** to use in the classroom. The workshops were rounded off with a **teachmeet** that included a seven minute crash course on how to teach coding concepts through the medium of Irish dance.

The first conference keynote speaker, Rohan Gunatillake was named as one of Wired magazines' Smart List of 50 people who are about to change the world in 2012. Rohan is a producer, entrepreneur and advisor, with specialisms in digital innovation in the arts and how technology can improve wellbeing. As the creator of mobile mindfulness apps, Rohan spoke about surviving the attention apocalypse through the use of **digital tools to create joy, focus and calm instead of distress, distraction and anxiety.**

The second keynote speaker, José Moura Carvalho, who is coordinator of 'Project TEA' – a body designated with understanding the current and future use of tablets in the classroom. José focused on how the conference theme of 'digital literacy' is central to our technology suffused world. He used the eTwinning platform and network combined with FutureLab's definition of digital literacy to extrapolate how classroom devices can assist **functional skills; creativity; critical thinking and evaluation; cultural and social understanding; collaboration; the ability to find and select information; effective communication and e-safety.**

The main event of the conference was the 2016 UK eTwinning Award ceremony, which took place on the Saturday evening. The award ceremony recognises outstanding eTwinning projects which have been identified through the **eTwinning pedagogical framework, the**

'Quality Label'. The teachers and schools involved were celebrated and given recognition for the quality and impact of their projects.
There were 13 awards presented in various categories, as well as one award for the overall winning project.

2016 OVERALL WINNER

Category: Migrant integration

Project: The new who do you think you are?

Valentina Burley -Tendring Technology College, England

2016 AWARD WINNERS

Category: Primary school pupil peer learning

Project: Aprender a cooperar somos tus profesores / we are your teachers

Erzsi Culshaw of Burscough Village School, England

Category: Pupil Peer Learning

Project: Aprender a cooperar somos tus profesores / we are your teachers

Carmen Rodriguez of Valley Road Primary School, England

Category: Mentoring

Project: Christmas around Europe 2015

Diana Linford of Steeton Primary School, England

Category: Collaboration in early years

Project: Deep to the roots of the world's fairy tales..

Violeta Korkucyte of Regent's Park Children's Centre, England

Category: Digital literacy

Project: eTwinning is sharing

Ruth Sanders of Ysgol Hendre, Wales

Category: Child Centered Teaching

Project: Loving laughing (does my joke sound funny to you?)

Hannah Boydon of Mayflower primary school and Kate Keaveny of All Saints Church of England primary school, England

Category: Global Outlook

Project: My world my classroom

Ian Kell of the Academy at Shotton Hall, England

Category: Erasmus+ Key Action 1 & Cross Curricular Teaching

Project: Parallel lives

Hannah Boydon of Mayflower Primary School, England

Category: Erasmus+ Key Action 2 and STEM

Project: STEM project - mindstorm to brainstorm

Balazs Kecskemeti of Ballysillan Primary School, Northern Ireland

Category: Wellbeing

Project: Teenagers talk

Tina Wright of Slated Row School, England

Category: Collaboration in secondary school

Project: Trails around Europe

Lorraine Oldham of King's Ely School, England

Category: Active Language learning

Project: Twins in contact

Cristina Sanchez of James Allen's girls' school, London

Category: Curricular Integration

Project: WWI: let's work wisely as one

Patrick McShane of St Roch's secondary school, Scotland

The event hashtag [#eTuk16](#) was trending in the UK for a period on Saturday.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dates: 24-26 June 2016

Venue: National College for Teaching and Learning, Triumph Road, Nottingham, NG8 1DH.

eTwinning data: There have been more than 300,000 teacher registrations across Europe on www.etwinning.net. The UK has reached approximately 22,000 UK registrations and over 8,000 projects have taken place in the UK since the programme launched in 2005. All school levels, from nursery to sixth form and further education colleges are eligible and the programme is applicable to all areas of the curriculum.

eTwinning is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and is managed in the UK by the British Council. The British Council is the UK's National Agency for Erasmus+, in partnership with Ecorys UK.

UK support is available via www.britishcouncil.org/eTwinning

Register on the pan European portal via www.etwinning.net

Rohan Gunatillake joined the British Council Board of Trustees in August 2013.

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