



# My Secret #EdTech Diary

## By Al Kingsley

# Book Discussion Questions

---

## Unpicking EdTech

- What is the most pressing problem EdTech could help you solve if you had 'an app for that'?
- Thinking about the wider use of EdTech beyond the classroom, what other applications and benefits can you see for other areas and staff in the school?
- Why are some of the aspirations for technology in education that were around decades, even a century, ago that are still not solved today?
- What can we learn from the failures of 'big tech' projects?

---

## Lessons learned with EdTech

### Lessons learned: teaching and learning

- How would you compare your use of EdTech during the last five years to how you are using it now? What are the differences?
- What measures has your school taken to tackle the digital divide - both during the pandemic and in 'normal' times? Are there additional things you could consider doing?
- As a teacher, what were the positives that came out of pandemic remote teaching and learning? What can we learn from the negatives?
- Will you retain any of the new EdTech practices you began during the pandemic? If so, why?
- If you are a new teacher, do you think your training adequately prepared you for remote teaching and learning? Do you think you fared better or worse than your colleagues?
- As a teacher, are you excited or daunted by the possibility of greater technology use in your classroom? Why is that?

### Keeping everyone safe

- Before reading this chapter, were you aware of the distinction between filtering and monitoring? Are there any other commonly used EdTech terms that you feel you would benefit from knowing more about?
- The "Everyone's invited" website for reporting sexual abuse and harassment across all levels of the education sector has brought to light a lot of uncomfortable truths for schools. How can we, as a sector, do better?
- Digital citizenship skills are fundamental to students being able to participate and keep themselves safe online. What approaches does your school take to ensure these skills

are embedded? Are there initiatives not currently in use that you think students would benefit from?

### Improving communication

- Do you think your school could do better when it comes to sharing information between departments? If so, how could it improve?
- In what ways has the pandemic changed the way you communicate with colleagues? Are these welcome changes? Is there still room to do more?

### Staff to student

- Platforms such as Teams, Zoom and Google Classroom "...have enabled schools not only to develop frameworks for good pedagogical communication flows and feedback loops...[but also] created significant opportunities for peer interaction and made a positive impact on social, emotional and mental health as a result." Has this been your experience? If so, how will you develop that impact for the future?

### School to parent (and community)

- In terms of leveraging social media for greater parental engagement, how comfortable are you/is your school doing this? Do you have a defined policy for handling social media exchanges? Is it detailed enough for your needs?

### Promoting wellbeing and SEMH

- The wellbeing of students and staff is important. How do you evaluate the impact of your activities in this area? What school policies support student or staff wellbeing?

---

## EdTech from a vendor's perspective

### What vendors want

- Does learning about the thinking behind EdTech products change your viewpoint about EdTech vendors? If so, in what way?

### Co-production

- "Educators are particularly good collaborators - with each other, with government initiatives or with parents and students. However, when it comes to collaborating with commercial suppliers, school leaders can be reluctant." Is collaborating with vendors something your school is open to? What would help make it work?

### Post-Covid-19

- This section refers to an article by Andreas Schleicher called, "What will education look like in 20 years?" What changes do you envisage in the education system of the future? How will we achieve ambitious changes within 20 years?

### Planning ahead with your digital strategy

- Creating and bringing a school's digital strategy to fruition is a major undertaking. If your school has completed the process, what learning experiences would you share with others as they create and realise their own strategies?

### Stop, look and listen

- Does your school have a clear analysis of what has worked well so far in its digital strategy? Have the tools and technologies chosen proved to be a good investment? Have they all become embedded and used on a consistent basis?

- Does your school know the full picture of staff and students' digital skills?
- Innovating learning
- Do you feel your school's digital strategy makes provision for all the different kinds of learners? Are there any gaps that you can think of? If so, how would you go about filling them?

### Developing students' digital skills

- As a teacher, do you consciously develop students' digital skills or is it an organic process as they progress with curriculum subjects? How do you ensure all students are confident with the technology they use in the classroom?

### Developing teachers' digital skills

- Do you embrace EdTech or shy away from it? If you are tech-savvy, how do you share good practice? And if you are not, what mechanisms would help you to build your confidence?

### Different approaches to consider

- How has your school embraced digital change? Which elements do you feel have been most/least successful?

### Asking the right questions

- Would the lack of availability of evidence from a dedicated 'evidence portal' put you off a solution you initially thought had potential? After learning how such portals operate, would you conduct your own research? In what ways could you help share your own positive experiences or great impact that you have had from a solution?

---

## Voices aligned

- How should we consider EdTech and its future role in education?
- To me, EdTech means ...
- When used appropriately, the right EdTech can...
- How should we adapt our thinking around EdTech?
- What should EdTech vendors be doing to support schools?
- How should the Government be supporting the development of technology to support teaching and learning?
- What are your thoughts on the need for a digital strategy?
- How can EdTech support staff and student wellbeing and how could it be interwoven in all aspects of school life?
- On EdTech supporting greater parental engagement
- What is the importance of Digital Citizenship in schools?
- What are the key considerations when managing your IT infrastructure?

