School Leaders’ Summit 2015

Creating a student digital leadership team

Highfields Digital Leaders
• Fortnightly news broadcast (Highfields TV)
• Presenting at the Wolverhampton Skills Show
• BAFTA video
• WOSCARS success
• Fundraising
• Supporting staff & students
• New school: new challenges
• Fall in numbers (GCSE/A-level and other commitments)
• Teacher led (Students not given ownership)
• Programme in need of a re-boot (Digital Leaders)
What are Digital Leaders?
Digital Leaders are students who are adept at using technology and are willing to share their knowledge and skills with others. Through working with staff, peers and school leaders, Digital Leaders are able to help shape how technology is used in and outside of the classroom.
• Support staff and students with the use of technology.
• Promote e-safety.
• Report to school governors.
• Test out new equipment and resources.
• Improve their understanding of technology.
• Share their knowledge and skills with others.
• Help shape the use of technology within school.
• Act as e-ambassadors.
• Get even better at using technology.
• Develop leadership skills.
• Identify opportunities and overcome challenges with ICT.
• Teach staff and students across the school.
• Trial and evaluate new equipment and services.
• Work with Digital Leaders from other schools.
• Have a platform for expressing their ideas and opinions.
• Develop a growth mindset.

What’s in it for the students? School Leaders’ Summit 2015
• Digital Leaders are an essential element to any successful whole school digital learning strategy and hold the key in supporting transformational change in the school.

• More effective to train Digital Leaders on using technology than to train staff.
Use Digital Leaders (DLs) to:

- Train staff, students and parents (eSafety / ICT)
- Support partner / feeder schools (e.g. new computing curriculum)
- Train up DLs in local / feeder schools (Support transition)
- Embed best practise (Create positive culture around the use of technology)
- Celebrate success
• The Digital Leader model can be replicated to other leadership programmes.

“A culture and ethos where students are empowered is important in every school with or without technology”
– Dan Roberts (Deputy HT at DHSB)
Student Voice

Why is it important?

Highfields Digital Leaders
• Student Voice both reflects student feeling towards THEIR school and drives areas of improvement at THEIR school too.

• In order to be effective, Student Voice deserves feedback, action or indeed reason for non action - the dialogue and discussion is key to the development of democratic understanding.
“Give students leadership opportunities because responsibility empowers” – David McQueen
Case Study

Creating a student digital leadership team

Highfields Digital Leaders
• Build up suspense
• Invite students to apply (Letter / Video – Be creative)
• Draw up shortlist – Interview candidates
• Leader
• Networker
• Reporter
• Creator
• Educator
• Presenter
• Technician
• Reviewer
• Safeguarder

Typical roles
• Badges (Physical & Digital)
• DL OpenBadges (18 Level 1 – 3 badges mapped out to a Digital Leader framework)
• Trips:
  • Education Show
  • BETT
  • Big Bang Fair
• Keep students interested by providing different challenges / responsibilities
• Plan for each half term – different focus / project
• Use badges / levels – Students aim to become experts in chosen field (Encourages ownership)
• Ensure weekly scheduled meetings / appointments
• Enter competitions / participate in digital initiatives (e.g. BBC School Report, BAFTA Young Game Designer)
• Produced promotional videos for local business (Thomas Dudley Ltd. and Chamber of Commerce).
• Supported primary feeder schools and local secondary school teachers with new Computing Curriculum.
• Trained staff & students in use of ICT.
• Publicised school events.
• Invited to lead panel discussion at BETT 2015 (ExCel, London)
• Met with MPs (Nick Gibb MP / Lord Jim Knight)
• Presenting at School Leaders’ Summit 2015.
• Delivering workshop at Digital Leaders’ Conference 2015.
“When I’m training my teachers, I feel like I’m giving something back!”

“I felt respected when I spoke to school governors.”

“Being a Digital Leader has helped build my confidence.”

“I was terrified when asked to produce a video for a local business however, looking back, it was a amazing experience and something I can put on my C.V!”
The Future

What does the future hold for Highfields Digital Leaders?

Highfields Digital Leaders
• Launch of #GeniusBar.
• Increase capacity (Senior Digital Leaders).
• Hand over ownership to students.
• Outreach to wider community.
• Integrate OpenBadges (makewav.es)
• Digital Leader blog / twitter feed.
• Support whole school CPD.
• Re-launch of Highfields TV.
• Support integration of VLE / Office 365
Want to find out more?

- www.digitalleadernetwork.co.uk
- www.makewav.es/digitalleaders
- Twitter: #DLChat (Every Thursday 9pm)
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