Where to start with digital technologies in your classroom

During the summer, over 4,000 teachers participated in PDST Technology in Education online and face-to-face summer courses. Here are a few highlights from the courses, along with suggestions of how you might use some of these resources in your own classroom:

**Webwise (www.webwise.ie)**
Introduce internet safety to the classroom this year using Webwise’s free teaching resources and lessons. Webwise also provide free information, expert advice and supports for teachers and parents.

**Suggested activity**

**Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie)**
Scoilnet contains over 19,000 resources which have all been selected by Irish teachers and mapped to the curriculum. Search for any subject, at any level, and you will find high quality teaching resources.

**Suggested activity**
Use the resource finder to find a resource for your class, then add this to your ‘favourites’ section which you will find on your dashboard after you sign in with a Scoilnet account.

**RTE Archives (accessed via Scoilnet.ie)**
Scoilnet has partnered with RTÉ to select a series of videos around which they have built activities which are aimed at honing pupils’ skills of working as historians, analysing evidence and developing an understanding of change and continuity.

**Suggested activity**
Access the RTE archives via the Scoilnet homepage, find the activities to cover videos on transport, communication, electrification and lots more.

**Irish Newspaper Archive (accessed via Scoilnet.ie)**
The newspaper archive also gives teachers and pupils access to primary source documents through national and local newspapers covering hundreds of years of Irish history. Over 60 newspapers are included in the archive, with some dating back as far as 1738.

**Suggested activity**
Explore ready-made lessons by searching ‘Irish Newspaper Archive’ on Scoilnet. See why Timothy the Tortoise is famous.

**World Book Online (accessed via Scoilnet.ie)**
Scoilnet provides unlimited access to World Book Online via its website. World Book Online is an authoritative and safe source of information and is a useful reference source for classroom work, project research and homework.

**Suggested activity**
Access World Book Online via Scoilnet, enter the ‘Kids’ section and select ‘Compare Places’. Choose a country you will be exploring this school year and compare it to Ireland.

**Good Practice Videos (accessed via www.pdsttie.ie)**
Filmed in Irish classrooms, these short clips demonstrate innovative and practical uses of digital technologies across the curriculum from using images and digital storytelling to support literacy, to using green screen technology in a visual arts lesson.

**Suggested activity**
Share a Good Practice video with your colleagues at your next staff meeting!

Finally, if you didn’t do a PDST Technology in Education course this summer, check out the term-time offerings both online (via TeacherCPD.ie) and face-to-face (via your local education centre), or apply for PDST in-school support (www.pdst.ie). We look forward to continuing to support you throughout this school year.

**MADELEINE MURRAY, National Co-ordinator, CPD Design, PDST Technology in Education.**