

## **Education IT Update**

Summer 2020 <u>www.medhurst-it.com</u>



# Helping you to deliver your teaching and assessments online

Many governments are taking major contingency steps to curve the spread of Coronavirus and we understand the massive impact this is having on teachers, pupils and parents.

We're working with our technology partners to deliver solutions that are helping our Schools to work remotely efficiently and safely to support their communities.

To also help ensure that teachers and young learners overcome having teaching and learning disrupted, our partner Tablet Academy has developed two courses, one using Google technologies and one using Microsoft, both of which will show teachers how they can use these technologies effectively to support learners remotely. These courses are free to teachers worldwide.

Sign up to access the free course: tablet-academy.com/covid-19.

More information and courses will become available during this time.

Talk to our Microsoft Education Team to find out how we can help you to deliver your teaching and assessments online **01489 563000**.

We hope that by doing our little part to help, we can assist dedicated teachers around the world continue to support their learning in these difficult times.

Keep safe and stay healthy.

**The Medhurst Education Team** 

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### Does your school use **Chromebooks?**

**Get FREE Remote Filtering** from Smoothwall!

Does your school use Chromebooks? Are you without remote Filtering at this time?



Contact us



smoothwall'

As a lifeline to those schools who do not have any form of remote Filtering during these difficult times, our partner Smoothwall is offering Smoothwall Cloud Filter free of charge until the end of term.

Smoothwall Cloud Filter will allow your school to monitor, control and protect your student devices from harmful online content. This may include self-harm, drugs, gang membership, radicalisation, sexual grooming and others.

Requiring no on-premise software, set up is simple and quick. It will allow you to see browsing activity and identify children who may be at risk children who may otherwise go unnoticed.

Call the Medhurst Education Team for more information.

#### **Our Partners and Accreditations:**

































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### The Famous Medhurst Pre-Loved Ex-Lease PCs

A 'Pre-Loved' computer makes financial sense for many organisations and offers an affordable and reliable alternative to brand new computers.

As one of the largest suppliers of second hand computers in the UK, we offer a three year warranty on PCs that typically cost less than half the price of a new one.

#### **Pre-Loved PC and Monitor Enterprise Package**

HP EliteDesk 800 G1 Mini Desktop, mounting bracket and HP E232 Monitor







MORE INFO

#### **Working from Home Laptop Specials!**

The most environmentally, ethical and socially responsible way to purchase IT is with a re-manufactured laptop from Circular Computing!

HP Elitebook 840 G1 £315.00 ex.VAT



Remanufactured Dell Latitude E5450



Remanufactured Lenovo ThinkPad T450 £355.00 ex.VAT



HP Elitebook 840 G3 £415.00 ex.VAT



Remanufactured Dell Latitude E5470 £415.00 ex.VAT



Remanufactured Lenovo ThinkPad T<sub>4</sub>60

£415.00 ex.VAT



#### **Extras**

Add Windows 10 Pro for £40 Add a refurbished docking station for £60 Add 3 year Accidental Damage Insurance for £92.60 Add 3 year Accidental Damage and Theft Insurance for £110.75

# Medhurst Joins Google Cloud Partner Advantage Program





We're delighted to announce that we have now joined the Google Cloud Partner Advantage Program as a G Suite for Education Partner and will be working with our schools to help deploy and manage their Google Cloud solutions.

G Suite for Education is a suite of free Google apps tailored specifically for schools, designed to create opportunities for learning, streamline administrative tasks and challenge students to think critically—all without disrupting current workflows.

The G Suite for Education includes great apps!

 Gmail - set up a school-wide or university-wide email system.

- Drive store and organise assignments, documents or class curriculum securely and access them from any device.
- Calendar share calendars or create a joint calendar with members of your class or institution to easily keep track of schedules.
- Docs, Sheets and Slides collaborate, share feedback and work together with students in real time on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- Forms create Forms, quizzes and surveys to collect and analyse responses with the help of machine learning.
- **Jamboard** sketch and collaborate on an interactive canvas on computers, phones or tablets
- **Sites** an easy-to-use web builder to create sites, host course curriculum and build development skills.
- Hangouts Meet connect with students virtually through secure video calls and messaging
- Groups create and participate in class forums to foster communication and conversation.
- **Classroom** create assignments, communicate with students and send feedback all from one place.

# Medhurst donates computers to help enable children to learn from home during school closures

As many schools are now setting lessons online, The Cowplain School headteacher, Ian Gates, had become concerned that children who didn't have a computer at home would miss out on learning.

Mr Gates said: 'Although we are sending hard copies of work home, our teachers are setting daily online work which matches pupils' timetables. However, we know that some children don't have access to a home computer or there may only be one in the household which needs to be shared with parents working from home or siblings.'

IT manager Ian Newman added: 'We can send work out in the post but it's much better for children to be able to access the online work which teachers are setting. We've given out 25 of our own spare laptops but this is not enough to cater for demand.'

After hearing about the school's plight, we were delighted to step in to provide pupils with a donation



of 20 additional computers. In order to prevent any coronavirus risk, all computers have been cleaned with antibacterial solution and supplied with a new mouse and keyboard.

Managing director Charlie Baynes said: 'A key focus of our company is education and during what is a national crisis we were only too happy to do our bit for the community. If I was working for the NHS as a nurse or doctor, then I would be on the front line and so giving out some computers is the least we could do.

'Hopefully it will have the desired effect of enabling children, as best they can, to keep up with their work.'

More on Portsmouth News website.



## Microsoft Teams for Remote Learning

If your school is already using Office 365 for Education, Teams is included and is the simplest way to establish remote learning. Class Teams can quickly be created, enabling learning to continue irrespective of location. You can have discussions, share files, issue and assess homework, and have voice and video calls 1:1 or in groups. Teams works on desktop, tablet, phone, and web browser - so students can access from any device.

This <u>blog post</u> is designed to help customers who
want to quickly get started in delivering remote
learning. It links to a series of webinars available
<u>here</u> to help educators and IT admins learn what
they need.

- We have documentation for getting started with Remote Learning <u>here</u>.
- In response to customer demand, we have created a Microsoft Team to bring customers together to share best practice and learn from each other.
   Please complete this form if you'd like to join.





#### PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

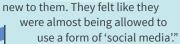
There are many reasons to encourage students to continue their class work at home, a global pandemic is just one of them! We thought this would be a good opportunity to shine a light on a few platforms that may be an option for your school.

All these learning environments essentially do the same thing – they are free communication tools that enable teachers to share children's classwork and achievements to families, to share links, text, videos, files, worksheets etc.

Here are some platforms that schools are using and what their experience has been...

#### **Microsoft Teams**

Ms Feeney teaches Year 6 and says:
"Using Teams in the classroom has been a great experience both for me and the class. I am able to receive feedback from them instantly and they enjoyed giving feedback in this way as it was something



#### **Google Education**

Cross MAT Assistant Head Mr Mulhall says: "We have made the move over to Google for all student learning. It is also available wherever the student works and available for the teacher to see at all times. It auto saves work so there is nothing lost. Google offers students the opportunity to work on Windows, Apple, ChromeOS, Android, iOS, Linux devices without any limitation from not having the desktop's software. Additionally, because everything is webbased it is always up-to-date with the latest version."

#### Class Dojo

Miss Waller teaches Year 2 and says: "The children really enjoy sending us pictures of what they've been up to and earning 'Dojo points'. We've had emails from parents saying how grateful they are to still be involved and hearing from us every day. They particularly like seeing our videos to see familiar faces, hear our voices and of course to see us being really silly. I want to carry on using dojo when we're back in school; it'll be a great way of sharing home learning and making families feel connected to the school."

















