

## WORKSHOP 20

# ONLINE LEARNING – Supporting Resources

**Workshop brief:** *Examples will look at the use of department websites, twitter, schoology, flipboard and pearltrees to support independent learning. The examples used will show how resources and links can be shared easily with students to create online resource repositories. There will be a particular focus on how these can be used with KS4 and KS5 to encourage students to (i) take responsibility for their own learning and read around topics and (ii) follow up lessons using resources used in class at home to support revision.*

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### Central Platforms for providing Online Learning Hubs

Having a department website is a fantastic way of providing a central learning hub for the teaching of your subject at your school, acting as a ‘one-stop shop’ for students (and parents) and developing a central area for all department resources. In doing so students become more independent taking the initiative to look online to support their own learning in your subject area.

Example of our Centralised Online Geography Learning Hub at St Ivo School.

[www.geobytes.org.uk](http://www.geobytes.org.uk)

At St Ivo we have developed a department website as our online learning hub which centralises all of resources and communication with students and parents. It includes links and feeds to our social media accounts as well as direct links to our online learning courses at GCSE and A Level (with access to all our teaching resources, ppts, links and video clips) – again the idea being that there is a ‘one-stop’ shop platform for the department

The screenshot shows the St Ivo Geography Department Online Portal. At the top, there are logos for 'St Ivo Geographers', 'Geobytes', '2017 The Prince's Teaching Institute Geography Centre of Excellence', and 'St Ivo School'. Below the navigation menu, there is a tweet from @StIvoGeography dated April 5, 2018, with 153 pageviews. The tweet content includes a welcome message for the summer term and a link to Schoology resources. Below the tweet are several resource cards: 'Case Studies & Examples', 'Preparing for Success at GCSE Geography', 'GCSE Student letter', 'Studying Geography at A Level', and 'Department courses for GCSE & A level schoology'. A quote at the bottom reads: "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you".

## Schoology – Learning Management System – PROVIDING ONLINE COURSES & SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS.

Providing online courses to support curriculum areas – particularly at KS4 and KS5 is very simple with the use of free class management tools such as Schoology.



<https://www.schoology.com/> Schoology is a learning management system which is simple to use on any device (with apps available) and it is very easy to use by both staff and students. Whilst there is a paid for version the basic Schoology package (<https://www.schoology.com/k12/packages/basic>) is free.

### Why is it useful?

Using Schoology Courses to support KS4 and KS5 Schoology courses provides an 'online classroom' area – this is what our department have used to provide online support and encourage independent learning amongst our GCSE and A Level students. Course materials can be shared, and updates given.

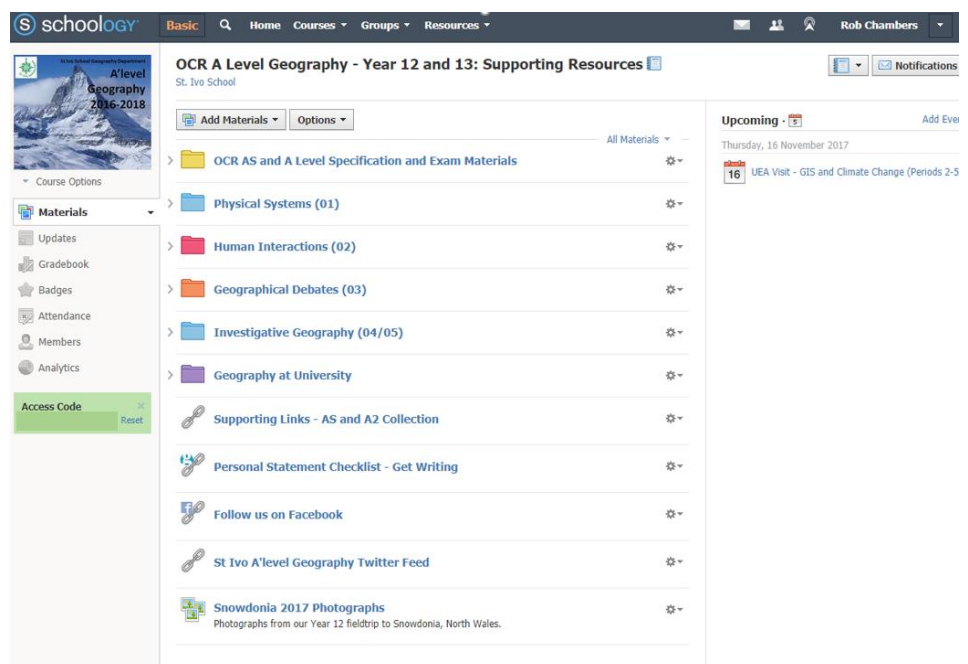
Through the notifications settings students can be notified when updates are made which provides a useful way of communicating with exam cohorts.

Once a course has been set up, you simply share the unique course access code with your students so that they can access.

As a code is required you control who can access this area. There is also a course analytics function which enables you to see how long members have spent online – useful for when trying to identify students who are utilising materials for revision!

Schoology also has a "Groups" function the aim of this is to allow people to connect with people locally and worldwide which enables collaboration, sharing of materials etc.

Once you have signed up to Schoology you can use access codes to join up to other groups.



## USE OF TWITTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA WITH STUDENTS TO ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE AND READING AROUND TOPIC AREAS

### Department accounts used with students:

Our department uses twitter for a variety of purposes, our main account [@StIvoGeography](https://twitter.com/StIvoGeography) is used to share general geographical news stories to inspire, reminders for students, promote and share examples of good student work, celebrate success, promote the department etc. Our protected KS5 A level account is used to encourage students to read around the subject by providing frequent links to relevant news articles signposted to where they fit into the curriculum.

Our use of twitter fits in with and follows the school's policy on the use of social media.



- Why use twitter in education and how to begin? Why twitter matters in education <http://talkswithteachers.com/why-twitter-matters-4-reasons-for-teachers/>
- 10 steps to creating the perfect educational twitter account <http://mrkempnz.com/2014/09/10-stepsto-creating-the-perfect-educational-twitter-account.html>
- 10 tips for tweeting teachers <http://mrkempnz.com/2014/09/10-steps-to-creating-the-perfecteducational-twitter-account.html>
- The beginners guide to twitter <http://michaelhyatt.com/the-beginners-guide-to-twitter.html>
- General links supporting the use of Twitter in Education <http://www.pearltrees.com/robgeog/usingtwitter-education/id9104746>
- 100 Ways to teach with Twitter <http://www.emergingedtech.com/2010/02/100-ways-to-teach-withtwitter/>

Using **FLIPBOARD** and **PEARLTREES** to curate and collect inks and resources to support students; encourage background reading and independent learning; and to support a flipped classroom.

### 1. Flipboard

Flipboard allows you to pull together articles from across the website in personal magazines – these are great for KS5 in particular as you can create web magazines for background reading for particular case studies or topics as a whole (you could also encourage students to curate their own magazines in order to encourage them to read around topics).



There is a great article here with lots of ideas – Flipboard – Using Flipboard creatively for learning <https://about.flipboard.com/educators/flipboardchat-summary-using-flipboard-creatively-for-learning/>

### Other links:

Flipboard <https://flipboard.com/>

Flipboard for Educators <https://about.flipboard.com/inside-flipboard/flipboard-for-educators/>

How to use Flipboard in the classroom <http://edtechreview.in/trends-insights/insights/1278-tips-for-teachers-how-to-use-flipboard-in-the-classroom>

### Examples of Flipboard in use in curriculum areas:

R Chambers - Geography Flipboards <https://flipboard.com/@RobChambers7ach>

Barker College Geography Flipboards <https://flipboard.com/@BarkerCollep10s>

Flipboard – build your own MFL magazine!

<http://www.networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk/blog/flipboard-build-your-own-mfl-magazine/>

How I use Flipboard as an educator <https://about.flipboard.com/educators/how-i-use-flipboard-as-an-educator/>

## 2. Pearl Trees (A fantastic way of archiving links to support students / departments)

Pearltrees is a fantastic visual and collaborative social library tool with enormous potential in education! It allows you to create ‘favourited’ URL links which are called ‘pearls’ which can be organised within ‘pearltrees’, providing a logical and hierarchical structure for organising links. You can collaborate with others on pearltrees, pick ‘pearls’ from others to add to your trees or indeed link other ‘pearltrees’ of interest to your own.



You can also team up so that you have a collaboration between people to create a pearltree related to a similar interest – perfect for establishing a bank of professional development links and collaborating with others interested in the same field! Rather than



having a favourites list on an individual browser – you can access your favourite links from any browser at any time using pearltrees.

**Great for building up banks of suggested background reading for students at A 'level.**

- Pearltrees <http://www.pearltrees.com/>

- Pearltrees for Teachers - tips for teachers

<http://educationtechnologytheoryandpractice.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/pearltreesfor-teachers.html>

- Effective Education Use of Pearltrees

<http://meantechtools.wikispaces.com/file/view/Effective+Education+Use+of+Pearltrees.pdf>

**Examples of Pearltrees in use to support Curriculum and Professional Development for teachers:**

Teaching and Learning Pearltree -

<http://www.pearltrees.com/robgeog/teachinglearning/id9086409>

ICT Across the Curriculum Pearltree - <http://www.pearltrees.com/robgeog/ict-acrosscurriculum/id9081161>

Geography Pearltree - <http://www.pearltrees.com/robgeog/geography/id9081141>

iPads in Education Pearltree - <http://www.pearltrees.com/robgeog/ipads-education/id9081019>

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