Digital Technology
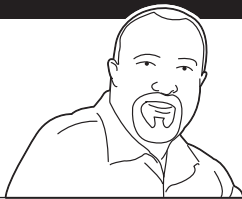
It is therefore the pedagogy of the application of technology in the classroom which is important: the how not the what.

Professor Steve Higgins

The Sutton Trust Report

Let's face it, technology hasn't delivered on many its promises. At least not in most schools.

The Sutton Trust report looks at what schools who succeed with technology actually do. What made the difference was not whether or not particular technologies were used. Or how often.

What was crucial was the degree to which technology was embeded in, and the servant of, every day teaching.

The shift is away from whether or not to use technology, to identifying to which specific eductional purposes they are best suited. And then, how exactly to embed them into a variety of specific contexts.
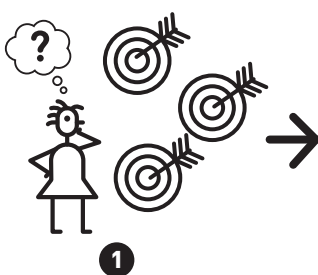
A focus on technology is not about the technology itself, but about changing teacher practice.

Robert Marzano

The Sutton Report recommendations

1 Clear rationale for use

In other words, what's the point, learning-wise? Is it better, longer, more efficient, more effective, deeper or more productive learning? Or, maybe, better teacher support to a greater number of students?

2 Clear role

What is the specific role of the chosen technology? To help students gain better access to content? Or provide better feedback? Could it improve student self-management?

3 Collaboration and interaction

Digital technologies generate better learning if they are used as part of cooperative learning. This revolves around discussion and feedback.

4 Supported development

Both teachers and students need continued support in this more advanced, learning-centred approach to technology.

5 Role for CPD

There is a clear role for CPD in developing teachers' skills and mindsets for effective use of digital technologies.
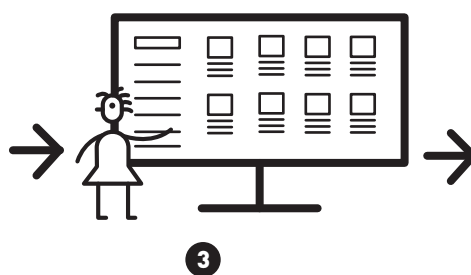
Putting it into action

1 Choose a curriculum learning target

Clarify a learning goal .

2 Choose an evidence based strategy

Choose an evidence-based approach to achieve the goal.

3 Choose a HOW2 technique

Get more specific: choose a HOW2 technique to execute the strategy.

4 Choose a digital technology

Choose a digital technology to support the HOW2 technique.

Technology is best used as a supplement to normal teaching rather than as a replacement for it.

Steve Higgins

REFERENCES

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