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EDUCATION

The Creative Education Guide to Twitter for Teachers



10 Reasons Teachers should give Twitter a go

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on September 7, 2011 at 6:09 am

If you can't decide whether or not to give Twitter a go, here are some ideas to sway you. I'm pretty biased as I'm lucky enough to interact with thousands of teachers who find twitter invaluable – maybe one day you will too. If you'd like to learn more, you'll find lots of useful information on my [Twitter for Teachers](#) page.

There's a fantastic exchange of ideas

This has to be the number one reason for teachers to tweet. My timeline is constantly filled with fantastic links and ideas. A huge number of resources and relevant blog posts are shared every day and there are always plenty of interesting education based conversations to join in too.

It breaks down social barriers

One of the things I've found most refreshing about Twitter is how it puts everyone on the same level. You'll regularly find a teaching assistant conversing with a head for example. Somehow, the nature of Twitter means that much of the hierarchy you're used to in school simply doesn't exist. Everyone is equal and all ideas are valuable. The teacher network on Twitter is a particularly friendly and giving network compared to some others I've encountered too. Here you will always be made to feel welcome and valued.

You can find the information you need fast

If you're struggling with something, anything, Twitter can help you. Don't understand the mark scheme for AQA GCSE maths? Ask on Twitter. Need advice managing behaviour at KS2? Ask on Twitter. Need a model lesson plan on The Romans? Ask on Twitter. You'd be amazed at how many people will try and help you – and if your immediate network can't help, you'll often find that your network will ask their network and before you know it someone will come up with the goods.

You can get input from all over the globe

Why confine the exchange of ideas to the teachers in your school's staffroom? Twitter is like a global staffroom. Here you can brainstorm with teachers in the USA, Australia, South Africa... just about anywhere you can think of. We have a huge amount to learn from each other and it's often very exciting to hear how differently things are done across the globe and thinking about how to draw on the world's best practice in your classroom.

It keeps you up to date

The world moves very fast but Twitter will usually mean that you're bang up to date with what's going on in your area of interest. Whatever is going on in education, someone will be tweeting or blogging about it. The interesting stuff tends to get retweeted so you shouldn't miss it either.

You can ask all those silly questions

There are some things you just feel too daft to ask your colleagues, but on Twitter where you feel more anonymous it's easier to open up and ask the silly questions. No one will laugh at you, and your pride remains intact.

It keeps you motivated

If ever you're struggling through a pile of marking, or feeling despondent after a bad class, someone on Twitter will always be able to offer you (virtual) tea and sympathy. The ideas that people will come up with to help you through the tough times will often prove very motivating and make you keen to get the bit back between your teeth and give it another crack.

You can take part in free CPD

Twitter chat sessions such as [ukedchat](#) are a fantastic form of CPD. There are several different twitter chats, which are essentially hour long CPD sessions with a whole bunch of teachers sharing their ideas on a specific subject. You can gain a huge number of ideas through these sessions alone.

It'll open doors

Twitter is a fantastic networking tool. You'll be amazed at the people you meet and this can often lead to exciting opportunities to get involved with different projects or maybe to write guest blog posts or perhaps to partner your class with a class from another country. All sorts of doors can be opened via Twitter.

You'll have thousands of mentors

By submersing yourself in Twitter's education network you'll be entering into a world where everybody wants to help you. Instead of the one or two (if you're lucky) mentors you have at school, suddenly you'll have access to thousands of mentors, all ready and willing to share their ideas and expertise. And you'll end up mentoring other people too which is very rewarding.

It can seem a little daunting at first, but please do give Twitter a go. You'll gain a huge amount from it. Read some of my [Twitter for Teachers](#) posts for some advice and if you'd like a helping hand when you get started tweet me [@creativeedu](#).

[Edit this entry.](#)



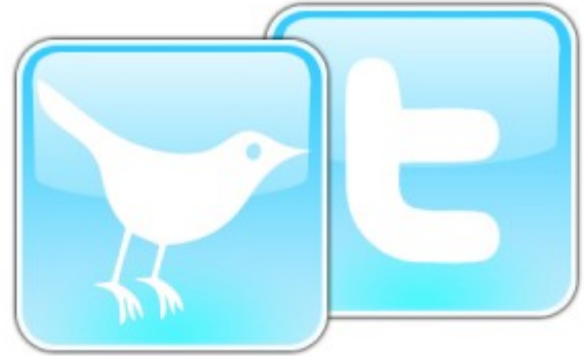
Twitter for Teachers: A Guide for Beginners

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 13, 2010 at 4:52 pm

I just received the following tweet:

“I’m an NQT. Heard about Twitter being great for CPD but have absolutely no idea how to use it – can you help?”

I’m still quite new to Twitter but I hope that what I’ve learnt in my first few weeks will prove helpful to those of you even newer on the scene than me. And maybe it will encourage a few of you to try Twitter out if you’ve not yet taken the plunge.



Choose your name wisely

Short and sweet: Tweets are only 140 characters long.

When someone is talking to you, their tweet will include your name so the longer your name, the fewer characters left for the rest of the tweet. The moral? Go for something short if possible.

Make it easy: Make your name both easy to read and to type. Smartphone users will find names including numbers or special characters harder to type and they can also make it difficult for people to remember your name off the top of their head. Ideally you’ll have a name people can easily remember so they don’t go searching through their followers every time they want to talk to you.

Have a uniform online presence: If you’ve already got a good social network elsewhere, using the same or a similar name on Twitter will help your other followers recognise and find you and increase the speed with which you’ll get going on Twitter.

Sell yourself in your Profile

A picture is worth a thousand words: Twitter is a friendly community and having a picture in your profile will help people to know who they’re talking to. It also increases the likelihood of people choosing to follow you as it stops your account looking like one of the thousands that have been signed up for then allowed to go dormant.

Take five minutes to complete your profile: Completing your profile with some information about yourself and maybe the type of thing you’ll be tweeting about, will massively increase your chances of gaining relevant followers. At the end of the day, you want people like you to follow you so you can engage in relevant conversations. If you’re a KS2 teacher – say so – you’ll soon find that other KS2 teachers are following you. Consider your profile your opportunity to ‘pitch’ yourself to potential followers. Sell yourself.

Link to your Blog: If you have a blog, make sure you list it in your profile details. Twitter and blogging are very good friends and many of your followers will be keen to read your blog.

Build your network

Talk to yourself!

When you first join Twitter, you don’t have any followers and it basically feels like you’re talking to yourself. Do it. It seems a little odd but no one is going to want to follow you if you’re not tweeting at all. So talk to yourself for a little while, get comfortable with how tweeting works and gradually you will gain followers and before you know it, thousands (okay, at least tens!) of avid listeners will be tuning into your every tweet.

Follow people your followers follow...

Once you have found even one or two likeminded individuals to follow, take a look at who they follow and follow anyone who seems of interest. Then, you can take a look at the list of people those people follow and so on and so forth. Once you start doing this, you’ll suddenly realise the value of a good profile blurb (and

understand why I was harping on about it earlier!)

Check out lists

Lots of Tweeters make lists of people on Twitter. These tend to be categorised. I would recommend all UK teachers to check out [@SchoolDuggery's lists](#) which are a goldmine of great people to follow. I write a weekly blog post listing [20 Top Education Tweeters](#) which you might find interesting and there are several list services available such as [Listorious](#) where you can search for tweeters by category.

Ask for help

Ask more established tweeters to help you find followers. Twitter is a friendly community and everyone will be keen to help.

Eavesdrop

Watch other people's conversations, it's a great way to find yet more people to interact with and follow.

Use and search for relevant hashtags

Label your tweets: I recently wrote a blog post about [hashtags for teachers](#). In short, hashtags are used to label things in Twitter. It helps you find tweets that are relevant e.g. all tweets containing '#edtech' will relate to technology in education and by the same token it helps you to label your tweets so that people beyond your followers can read them if they are interested in that topic.

Twitter Chats: Hashtags are also used for Twitter Chats which are a great form of CPD. If you're a teacher in the UK then you'll find [UK Ed Chat](#) a fantastic CPD opportunity. There are many other educational chats too.. I will try and assemble a list in a later blog post.

So what's so great about Twitter?

A great place to find and share links: One of the major uses of Twitter is for sharing information. A tweet is only 140 characters long but within a lot of tweets there is a link to an external site or blog post or similar. Twitter is a fantastic place to find resources as everyone is sharing all the time. If you want to share links, you can shorten them using a service such as [bit.ly](#) so they don't make your tweet too long.

You can get feedback almost instantly: Twitter is a great place to brainstorm. Once you've built up your network with relevant followers, you'll have a group of people you can bounce ideas around with. Not sure how to teach long division to year six without sending them to sleep? One of your followers is bound to have an idea or know of great website. Ask them.

Twitter makes the world small: You can get input from all over the world in a matter of minutes using Twitter. You can learn from best practice in classrooms all over the world – and share your own ideas too. Educators on Twitter are an international community who are keen to innovate and support one another in the search for the best ways to teach the next generation. It's an amazing thing to be a part of.

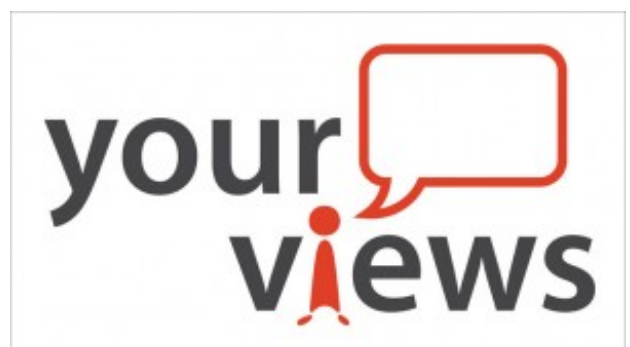
You can use it with your students too: Here are just a few ideas: [30 \(and counting\) ways to use Twitter in the classroom](#)

Good luck and happy tweeting. If you found this blog post useful, please tweet it!

Do you have any advice to share for teachers new to Twitter?

What would you like to know more about? Let me know and I'll write a further post...

[Edit this entry.](#)



Twitter for Teachers: Building your Network

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on June 20, 2011 at 10:44 am

[Twitter](#) is a fantastic resource for educators – and the educational community on Twitter is an extremely friendly and sharing one so it's well worth being involved. The real benefits come as you build your network by following and being followed by relevant people.

Your first 100 followers are the hardest to earn. Here are some ideas to help you along the way.

Make yourself 'Followable'

There are a few simple things you can do which will increase the likelihood of people wanting to follow you.

Complete your profile

You don't have a lot of characters to play with so it won't take you long to fill in your profile. A lot of people don't bother and it's a sure fire way to restrict the number of people willing to follow you. If you've not filled in your profile then people know nothing about you and can't make a sensible decision about whether you'd make a good addition to their network.

Be a real person

Another issue with not completing your profile is that potential followers also don't know whether or not you're a real person. There are an increasing number of spam-bots out there in twitterland. Prove you're not one of them by filling out your profile and including a profile picture. You're most likely to be followed if you come across as a regular Joe – so a picture of yourself rather than your logo (if you have one) is a great idea. And including your real name also goes a long way. It can seem quite strange exchanging ideas with someone whose name (and sometimes even gender) you're unsure of!

Tweet, tweet, tweet

If you don't say anything, you can be sure that noone will be interested in listening. At first, even when you do tweet there won't be a whole heap of folk listening, but stick at it...

Share useful information and links

Make your tweets useful by sharing great links, retweet great tweets you see.. make your tweets indispensable and people will soon follow.

Talk to people!

Engage with people – don't just follow and run... start a conversation or jump in on a conversation they're already having. People are more likely to follow you if they can see that you're a conversationalist that they're likely to have some quality interaction with and you'll enjoy Twitter a lot more that way too!

Tell people you're on Twitter

Shout it from the rooftops... put it on your email footer, on your business cards, on your blog, tattoo it on your forehead.. whatever it takes, just let people know you're tweeting and ask them to connect with you.

How to know who to follow

Of course, not everyone is worth following – here are some ideas for sorting the wheat from the chaff:

You don't HAVE to follow back

A lot of people fall into the trap of thinking it's 'polite' to follow back. Well that may be so but it's also a sure fire way to get a bloated network full of people you're not really talking to. A lot of businesses increase their number of followers simply by following hundreds of followers in the hope of a followback. This is pointless



and following these people who have no intention of interacting with you will make your timeline bloated and diluted. So how do you know who you should follow?

Take a look at their profile

A profile can tell you a huge amount. As I mentioned before, an empty profile often tells you this is a person not worth following I'm afraid. If a profile is completed does it sound like you have interests in common? If you're both MFL teachers looking to exchange ideas then bingo, you're onto a winner... hit the follow button without delay.

Take a look at their tweets

What do they talk about? And are they interacting? If they're regularly sharing links or ideas and there are plenty of @ showing they're engaged with their network then they're likely to be a good person to follow.

See who you have in common

Twitter will tell you if you follow people in common – if you're both interested in the same kinds of people then the chances are you'll both be interested in each other too.

Find relevant people to follow

Here are a few simple ways of finding people you might be interested to follow:

Find lists – but be selective

Lists can be a great source of potential people to follow. If you're a UK teacher, I'd particularly recommend @'s [excellent lists](#). There are also list services such as [listorious](#) and [twellow](#) which list tweeters in categories – but don't just assume list membership means someone is a good follow. Do your usual checks or you risk bloating your follow list with people who aren't relevant or engaging.

Follow people your followers follow

Another good way to find people to follow is to take a look at who the people you're following follow. The people who share the best links are most engaging on Twitter tend to be following a lot of equally excellent tweeters that might make a valuable addition to your network.

Ask for recommendations

Tweet asking for recommendations of the best tweeters to follow. If you're interested in a specific type of person, make it clear: 'Can anyone recommend any great primary ed music tweeters to follow please? Please RT' for example. People are always keen to recommend excellent members of their network and are likely to retweet your request if you've been a valuable connection for them.

Search for Hashtags

Search for [twitter hashtags](#) that are of interest to you and see who is posting with that hashtag – they may well be worth following.

Join in with Twitter Chats

A great way to engage with other twitter users and find some new relevant people to follow is to throw yourself in at the deep end and take part in a [twitter chat](#). You're also likely to gain some relevant followers this way too as long as you contribute to the conversation and exchange some good ideas.

And another thing...

Think QUALITY rather than QUANTITY

Remember – it's not all about the numbers. It is better to have a small but highly relevant and engaged personal learning network than a PLN of thousands of people who you aren't interested in and never exchange ideas with.

How do YOU find relevant people to follow? Please comment with your ideas and suggestions.

You might also like:

[Twitter for Teachers a Guide for Beginners](#)

[Nine great reasons teachers should use twitter](#)

[The 60 best teachers on twitter](#)

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The Insider's Guide to Twitter Chats

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on June 2, 2011 at 9:23 am

Today, I'm going to share with you some hints and tips to help you to get the most out of the Twitter Chats you participate in because, let's face it, whilst Twitter Chats such as [#UKEdChat](#) can be a great fun to be a part of, and a fantastic form of CPD, they can also be somewhat [overwhelming](#). Especially if you're new.

Get properly set up & don't expect to be able to carry on with other things

Of course, you can follow a twitter chat on the fly via your mobile whilst you try and get on with your weekly shop or do some marking. I wouldn't recommend it. Good twitter chats are fast and furious to say the least and you get out as much as you put in. So I'd suggest that you set yourself up at a computer or laptop with no interruptions, and set aside the time to fully engage.

Don't rely on Twitter.com

If you're taking part in a popular chat, you will find it far easier to follow if you use a different twitter client than twitter.com. I recommend using [twitterfall to follow chats](#), other people recommend [tweetdeck](#) or [hootsuite](#). It's a matter of personal preference so you might like to try a couple of different options until you find the one that works best for you.

Don't forget the hashtag

The most important thing to remember when participating in a twitter chat is to include the relevant [hashtag](#) after every tweet. Otherwise, people following the chat won't see your words of wisdom. Nor will they be recorded in the chat archive. It can be difficult to remember, but some clients such as [twitterfall](#) enable you to automatically add the [hashtag](#) to all new tweets – which is great if you have a mind like a sieve like me!

Engage and interact

Lots of people choose just to watch the conversation, and that's just fine, but I think that to get the most out of a Twitter Chat you really have to get stuck in. It can feel a little daunting at first as there is so much going on, and often there are lots of people tweeting strong opinions or really well formed views. But I promise that people WILL be interested in your ideas and experiences so tweet away.

Ask and answer questions

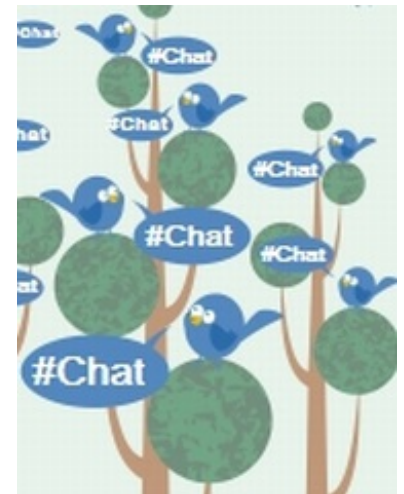
One of the quickest ways to get yourself into the swing of things is to ask some questions... if you ask a relevant and interesting question then other tweeters will engage with you. I find this a particularly useful strategy when taking part in a chat session that is a little beyond my comfort zone. Twitter chats are a very friendly environment so if you don't know about or understand something, just ask and someone will be happy to explain. It's a great way to learn. Answer questions too. Never fall into the trap that some new tweeters do of thinking your opinion isn't valid or interesting. The more voices that participate, the more we all learn. So get asking and get answering.

Use the reply button – and view conversations if you feel lost!

When you're answering questions, or asking questions that have been inspired by another tweet in the chat, be sure to hit reply rather than just writing a fresh tweet. This will ensure that other tweeters can follow back the conversation. I often keep a twitter.com tab open just to be able to view back conversations as they are displayed really clearly on twitter.com (click the little speech bubble next to any tweet to see the preceding tweets).

Find new people to follow

Twitter chats are a fantastic source of new people to follow. Everyone involved in the chat has a common



interest or you wouldn't be chatting together. There will always be tweeters who stand out within chats as being particularly useful or interesting, or maybe just sharing a specific common interest with you – be sure to follow them, they will be a great addition to your network. You'll also gain a lot of new followers by actively engaging in chat sessions.

Use favourites

Favourites are a lifesaver for me during chat sessions. It's all so fast and furious that it's virtually impossible to keep pace at the best of times – then someone tweets a fantastic link that you're keen to read – but if you do so you'll miss a chunk of the conversation. I will always favourite tweets with great links, or good ideas that I want to put into practice or come back to to think further on, and review them in the morning. Once I've recovered from the chat!

Retweet noteworthy tweets

The moderator will retweet good tweets and it can become a bit of a free for all if everyone retweets any half decent tweets so don't go crazy on the retweets BUT if something particularly stands out, or you don't think it's been picked up by the moderator, retweet it as this will help it to get some extra airtime and engagement.

Don't try to read everything

It's just not possible to read every tweet that occurs during a busy chat session. You'll make your eyes bleed. Don't even try. There are a few different approaches you can take. Either have a specific focus, like you would for a lesson observation or simply read what catches your eye. There's no great science to it, but all seasoned twitter chatters would agree that the one thing you can't expect to do is to read the lot!

Don't be afraid to huddle in a corner and explore a tangent

If you and a couple of other like-minded folk find yourself going off on a tangent, don't worry about it.. that's okay! Huddle in a corner of the chat and carry on. You'll often find that you'll draw other tweeters in and start your own mini-chat within the session. You're here to learn something from each other, and as long as that's happening it's all good.

Include links and refer to other sources of information

If you've written or read a blog post that relates to the chat session be sure to tweet a link. Sharing links to any relevant sources of information is a very helpful thing you can do to contribute to a chat. Some tweeters will favourite them and come back later, and others will pick them up via the archive, so don't hold back on sharing links and information on the basis that there isn't time for people to read and process it right away.

Read the archive or summary afterwards

Most twitter chats will produce an [archive](#) of all of the tweets afterwards – this can make heavy reading and can run into the thousands of tweets. For this reason, the summaries that some chat moderators produce outlining the main thrust of the conversation and picking up the best tweets and links can be a far more inviting prospect. I always read the [summary of #UKEdChat](#) as it's a great way to recap on what was discussed and pick up any interesting points I might have missed out on at the time.

Drink after the session – not before!

This suggestion by @ is a very sensible approach. One I preach rather than follow. (which is why my tweets get a little slurry towards the end of a heavy chat session...)

–

Happy chatting! And please share your hints and tips by commenting. A big thank you to these marvellous members of my PLN who contributed to this post: @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @

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Top Twitter Hashtags for Teachers

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 7, 2010 at 3:51 pm

Hashtags are a great way of searching for tweets in a specific category from the whole of the Twittersverse – search for #ukedchat and you will come up with a huge stream of tweets which have been tagged as interesting to anyone wanting to read about UK education. As well as searching for tagged tweets, you can tag your own tweet to make sure you are talking to an interested audience that extends beyond your followers.

You can tag absolutely any word on Twitter so it can sometimes be difficult to sort the wheat from the chaff. I have read dozens of lists of 'useful' hashtags where many of the tags have never been used more than a handful of times. Not useful in my book.

By talking to my followers and noting which hashtags are most often used by the tweeters I follow I have compiled a list of hashtags which I think will all be of interest to UK Teachers though many extend far beyond the UK.



General Education Hashtags

- [#ukedchat](#) – UK Education. In my opinion this is the most useful hashtag for UK Teachers.
- [#edchat](#) – Education, worldwide (lots of US teachers). A really useful hashtag if you are interested in tweeting with a wide range of educators worldwide.
- [#schools](#) – Massively wide ranging but used far less than #edchat or #ukedchat
- [#teaching](#) – This hashtag seems to largely be used for jobseeking so a good place to look if you're moving on!
- [#lrnchat](#) – Learning
- [#TT](#) – Teacher Tuesday where educators suggest others to follow
- [#kinderchat](#) – hashtag for discussing kindergarten aged children
- [#EdChatIE](#) – The educational hashtag for Ireland for all three levels
- [#ClavEd](#) – The educational hashtag for French Speakers – Wednesdays at 12h(EST) 13h(ATL) 18h(Paris)
- [#GlobalEd](#) – Education with a global dimension

Technology

- [#edtech](#) – a very wide range of tweets relating to the use of technology in education. This is a great hashtag to follow and tends to be a lot more widely used than the more niche tags. Though they may be worth following if you have a specific interest in that area
- [#elearning](#) – eLearning (funnily enough!)
- [#mlearning](#) – the use of mobile technologies in education, also [#mobilelearning](#) though this is less used
- [#edapp](#) – educational apps
- [#gbl](#) - games based learning
- [#lwf11](#) – Learning Without Frontiers Conference 2011

- [#slide2learn](#) – iDevices and learning
- [#vitalcpd](#) – effective use of technology in the classroom

Subject Specific

- [#mathchat](#) – mathematics
- [#scichat](#) – science
- [#engchat](#) – English
- [#artsed](#) – the arts in education
- [#musedchat](#) – music
- [#eltchat](#) – english language teacher
- [#STEM](#) – widely used for posts and resources in STEM education
- [#SSChat](#) – social studies chat
- [#RETeacher](#) – Religious Education
- [#HistoryTeacher](#) – History
- [#GeographyTeacher](#) – Geography
- [#ASEChat](#) – Association of science and education weekly chat Monday 8-9pm GMT
- [#PhysicsEd](#) – Physics

Specific Areas / Roles

- [#pgce](#) – this is a widely used hashtag and is great for anyone in the UK doing their PGCE, a great way to share ideas and support
- [#gtchat](#) – for tweets related to gifted and talented education
- [#esl](#) – English as a second language, this seemed to have more relevant tweets than #EFL when I checked it
- [#Bullying](#) – especially good for finding bullying resources or help and support if bullying is an issue though it is not confined to school bullying
- [#cpchat](#) – connected principals, this is mainly used by American principals but I thought it worth including as there were some interesting links shared in the stream and it's not too spammy
- [#ntchat](#) - new teachers, (#nqtchat seems to have lapsed)
- [#spedchat](#) – special educational needs. Live chat every Tuesday night at 8:30 EST for special education related topics
- [#homeschool](#) – everything related to home schooling, seems to be far more widely used than #hsc
- [#playoutdoors](#) – outdoor play and learning ideas
- [#TLChat](#) - is the hashtag for Teacher Librarians' discussions/resources
- [#ESDGC](#) - Education for sustainability and global citizenship

I'm sure there are plenty more useful hashtags that could be added here. Please comment or tweet me @ with your suggestions and I will update the post as appropriate.

[Edit this entry.](#)



UK Ed Chat – A Guide

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on November 3, 2010 at 12:33 pm

What is it?

UK Ed Chat is a live chat hosted each week on Twitter where fast and furious debate and conversation takes place on current educational issues that cross all sectors of education.



Who Participates?

Hundreds of Tweeters take part, ranging from those training to teach, through to head teachers and just about every type of educator in-between.

Why would it be of interest to me?

It's a great form of CPD – by sharing your skills and experience you will help others and with such a diverse range of people involved in the conversation, even if you are very experienced you are likely to learn something new too.

You'll often get pointed at great resources too.

In essence it's a great way of learning... without feeling like you're learning!

What kind of topics get discussed?

The topics are wide ranging, recent examples include:

- How to cope with challenging pupils
- How to get 'behind the times' schools, ahead...and FAST!
- Making Learning Fun
- Does APP work? What other formative assessment tools do you use? Do they work?
- How do we manage resources effectively in these times of diminishing funding?

Each week the topic to be discussed is decided via an [online poll](#).

When is it?

Every Thursday evening from 8pm-9pm.

How can I join in?

You can take part passively or actively. Either way I would advise the use of a desktop client such as Seismic or Tweetdeck as the conversation is really very fast.

You will need to set up a search for #UKEdChat – this will allow you to view every comment that is added to the conversation.

If you just want to watch that is fine, just sit back and watch the (hundreds of) #UKEdChat tweets come up on your screen.

If you want to actively participate then jump in on the conversation. Make sure you include #UkEdChat in every tweet or those following the conversation won't see your words of wisdom.

You can either respond to what someone else has said, retweet their comment if you thought it was particularly interesting or noteworthy or, of course, you can make a brand new point of your own.

Everyone is very friendly and there are no silly questions on #UKEdChat – there is a real community spirit

and everyone is keen to share knowledge and learn together so don't be shy!

Does it matter if I'm not on Twitter?

If you're not on Twitter, you missed #UKEdChat or you simply want to review what was said after the event, you can review either [The Whole Discussion](#) – though this is usually well in excess of 500 tweets so you may prefer to view the excellent summaries provided on the [UK Ed Chat Blog](#).

How Can I Find out More?

[Visit the UK Ed Chat Wiki Site](#)

I hope to see you there!

[Edit this entry.](#)



#UKEdChat – Amazing CPD or Information Overload?

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on May 10, 2011 at 9:26 am

There's a CPD revolution happening and you'd hardly know. Every week hundreds of teachers engage – willingly – in an hour long CPD session from the comfort of their own homes.



[UKEdChat](#) or [#UKEdChat](#) to the Twitter savvy among you is a whole new way of approaching CPD. Now I'm not going to slate the traditional way as I have testimonials from thousands of delegates each year telling me that our [one day training courses](#) have had a real impact on their teaching; BUT I'm more than a little bit interested in this new, free, innovative and cutting edge form of CPD.

At its best it's a fast moving, up to the minute, innovative exchange of ideas.

At its worst it's inaccessible information overload that's hard to follow.

I've heard both views – a lot and I'm not sure where I stand on the topic.

A lot can depend on how good the moderator is. Each week there is one of a series of moderators. Their job is to decide on the potential questions for this week's UKEdChat. To encourage people to take part, to keep the conversation moving once it's happening, to highlight and retweet excellent tweets to ensure they are heard and to create a summary after the end of the chat.

The best moderators come up with really engaging questions which can realistically be tackled during the hour long chat session. They ask just the right questions at just the right moments to keep things moving and they effectively highlight all the most salient points. They also work hard to make sure that anyone who's taking part for the first time is gently encouraged to get involved and is made to feel that their opinion counts.

Being a UKEdChat moderator is a hard job – I know because I stepped into the breach once and I've never known an hour go so fast. Blistered fingers and blurred vision were the result and I'm not even sure I did a good job. I did love it and I would love to do it again (hey [@Colport](#)... if you're reading this take note ;-)) as I quickly came to realise what a pivotal role it is in making UKEdChat a success.

You generally only hear the positives about UKEdChat and on the whole I'm a big fan. I've learnt a vast amount from the dozen or so I've taken part in. The sheer volume of people involved means that there are always a huge range of ideas and opinions being exchanged at all phases and abilities. The views of everyone from head teachers to teaching assistants are voiced and there are links a plenty. A huge number of positives... so what is there not to like?

Well... and I'm sure this will count as one of those [controversial viewpoints which will invite both comments and hatred](#) but I think it has to be said... there are problems with UKEdChat. It's fantastic but it's not perfect.

It gets more and more popular so the sheer number of people involved now means that it is complete information overload. When it's an engaging topic literally hundreds of tweets are floating around, many points are repeated both because people share views and because lots of people retweet the best tweets. In the early days I would try and read everything and found that was near enough impossible. I also used to wait until an appropriate moment to make my point, but again you can't do that... you just have to shout over the masses and hope! It's a bit like having a staff meeting where everyone's allowed to talk at the same time...

UKEdChat can also be extremely daunting for newcomers. Lots of people already know each other and everyone seems to know the rules of engagement. I can only begin to imagine how many people sit on the sidelines each week unable to get a word in edgeways.

There can also be a bias towards edtech topics – which is fantastic as it's hard to get CPD on those topics elsewhere but at the same time I think it probably makes UKEdChat doubly inaccessible to those colleagues of ours that we'd love to [introduce to Twitter](#) and UKEdChat but who maybe find the photocopier a bit

challenging.

I've taken a bit of a UKEdChat break the last few weeks as I've had another commitment on a Thursday night but having thought through the pros and cons of UKEdChat and having really missed the fast paced innovative ideas exchange I used to enjoy on a Thursday night I'm heading back this week. Despite some misgivings I think it's an absolutely fantastic CPD resource and I'm willing to contribute in any way to keep it that way.

–

So what do you think? Does UKEdChat offer fantastic CPD or is it simply information overload? I'd love to discuss this further... either comment below or tweet me [@CreativeEdu](#)

–

You may also be interested in:

[Twittering classes for teachers](#) – Guardian.co.uk

[If you want to know more about UKEdChat read this post.](#)

[If you want to know more about using hashtags read this post.](#)

[Edit this entry.](#)



Twitter is making me a More Reflective Teacher

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 29, 2010 at 6:04 am

This post was written by [@ReTeach10](#) and was originally published [here](#)

Twitter provides constant updates from people thinking about teaching

I have recently started using Twitter on a regular basis. I was not convinced when I first heard about it but then started to read more and more articles about professional communities being created online rather than people merely telling the world exactly what they had eaten for breakfast. The key principle benefit I have found is that whilst I sit here working, there is the constant beep from Twitter updates from people who are doing the same as I am, thinking about teaching. All of a sudden I have found myself sitting in a massive online staffroom with people wanting to share ideas, tools and practical advice on pedagogy and teaching.



I'm given the chance to think about my own teaching and my students' learning

The benefit is already clear. Even without commenting, just listening to the conversation reminds me of the 101 things a good teacher should do when preparing, teaching or marking for the benefit of students. It is true what they say – enthusiasm is infectious. Even in the run up to the holidays there are still hundreds of ideas being shared which gives that boost to help my teaching. However, never one to be quiet, the possibility of sharing ideas and getting constructive professional feedback is brilliant. The day to day workings of a school can remove a teacher from the meta-teaching which is needed for good teaching. The teacher gets lost in a myriad of work surrounding duties, paperwork, updating databases, minor classroom behaviour management issues. Having the chance to take part in the debates such as #ukedchat puts any teacher back in the meta-teaching debate and therefore gives the teacher that chance to think about their own teaching and student learning.

Having Twitter running in the background is like having another teacher in the room

I am sitting here on the second day of the Christmas holidays marking a set of 30 year 8 history books. One of the topics they have been looking at is the Reformation and the impact on the English Church. The marking I have done is different to what I would usually do simply by having Twitter up and running in front of me. It's like have another teacher in the room with you.

Twitter is having a positive effect on my marking

Constantly reading really upbeat positive tweets about teaching and student learning has had a positive impact on my marking. Usually I would move through the work and comment on key pieces of work and comment on their presentation and provide some targets at the end of the marking in each book. However, rather than commenting I have this time entirely focused on questioning and getting the students to think about how and why they can improve their work.

A typical answer to one question set has been: 'They would have needed to think about the rules from the Church and the Monarchy'.

Initially my feedback would have included:

- Write in full sentences
- Careful with handwriting
- Be specific

Having been reminded about the value of dialogic learning which can be in written as well as spoken form:

- Does this response have all the information you wanted to say?
- Where can you develop this answer?
- Why are specifics really important when writing for an audience?
- Do YOU understand what you have written here?

I'm thinking again about exactly what I'm teaching and why

The value of learning has also pushed me back into thinking about exactly what I am teaching and why! Rather than writing about the standard of their writing I have been now focused on the HISTORICAL nature of the work they have produced. This has meant that every book marked so far has had historical related comments:

- How **diverse** were opinions on the power of the church and monarchy?
- What **caused** people to think about these rules?
- Which do you think had more of an **impact** – the Church or the Monarchy?
- Priests had to listen to the Church and the Monarchy. A) Which do you think the priest should listen to? b) Which do you think the priest did listen to? Why do you think there was this difference?

Both Twitter and my marking are making me reflect on how to be more student focused

I am not going to lie – the marking has taking me longer but I certainly feel it is more detailed and, if I give the students a constructive task in the 1st lesson back in which they have to comment on the marking and set their own targets, I feel it will have definitely been a worthwhile task!

It is interesting then how both the marking and Twitter tie together and both provide me with a key review of my teaching and hence student learning. From Twitter there is the constant message of student activity and encouraging the students to learn for themselves. Tweets have pointed me to videos and blogs which have given me ideas of how to make the lessons more student focused. It is interesting then that I mark books and have seen some lessons where I have done all the work and the students have done little. They have had to listen to me talk and then write down ideas I've written on the board where I have got into the task they should have done for themselves.

I hope that next term I will find time for preparation, teaching assessment and reflection

Twitter, marking and this blog are all pushing me to become reflective about my teaching. The next step is to become active about my reflection rather than just posting musings! I just hope that I organise my time wisely enough so that even in the middle of term, there will be time for preparation, teaching, assessment and reflection!

Does Twitter make you a more reflective teacher?

Has Twitter encouraged you to improve any of your existing practice?

Can Twitter be more a distraction than a help?

[Edit this entry.](#)



28 Creative Ways Teachers are Using Twitter

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on July 18, 2011 at 10:29 am

This post has kindly been shared by [Best Colleges Online](#) where it first appeared on their [blog](#).

Between the cat images and celebrity porn, the Internet actually manages to boast educational potential. Considerable educational potential, in fact. Even that Twitter thing the kids are into these days, with its 140-characters and its perpetual haze of pound signs, has its uses. More than 28, of course, but here's a nice little starting point.

Instant feedback:

ReadWriteWeb and Mashable both featured Monica Rankin, a history professor at University of Dallas, and discussed how she utilizes Twitter to gather real-time feedback. Students send questions and input to the microblog, which end up projected right there during lectures; Rankin encourages them to study one another's insights.

Answering questions:

In a similar strategy to the aforementioned information gathering, some educators streamline the process by allowing students to answer questions via Twitter rather than raising their hands. This greatly aids studying, too, as they can easily refer back via dedicated classroom hashtags.

Enabling discussion outside of class:

University of Texas emerging media professor David Parry also talked Twitter with Mashable, lauding the ubiquitous microblog as an excellent way for his students to continue class discussions after they've already ended. And they frequently do!

Announcements:

Rather than sending out a mass e-mail, many education professionals find it far easier to tweet changes, cancellations and other important announcements. Definitely avoids the dreaded spam filter that oftentimes prevents students from receiving time-sensitive messages.

Notifications about completed assignments:

Conversely, many students use Twitter now to alert their teachers about when they've finished their work. This strategy works especially well for online courses or classrooms taking advantage of internet-based technologies.

TwitLit:

The 140-character limit offers a nice little challenge for students, and innovative educators and authors like have taken notice. Whether writing poetry, short stories or something else entirely, the site's unique structure offers up some excellent ways to stimulate creativity.

Word, trend or hashtag tracking:

Staying on top of what people are talking about opens up users to an incredibly broad spectrum of perspectives. Requiring subscriptions to specific, relevant words, hashtags or trends is a simple (and free!) way to provide such a window into the world.

Follow conferences:

Some educators may want their students to follow certain professionals and keep track of the various



happenings at relevant industry conferences. The more active feeds might even provide links to streaming video or audio!

Communicate with professionals:

Instead of asking students to merely follow industry insiders, ask them to actually tweet a response and open a discussion — or at least try to, anyways. For high schoolers and the college crowd, this assignment might very well help them discover some personal career goals.

Taking notes:

Similar to the example about facilitating extracurricular discussion, Twitter also provides a quick way for students and teachers alike to take notes. Keeping everyone organized in a list makes it easier than ever to supplement (not replace) reviews for tests, quizzes and assignments.

Share a story:

Put a social media twist on an old classroom favorite by asking students to play some fun story-go-round games on the famous microblogging site. The first tweets a sentence, the next builds off of it and so forth; try assigning a hashtag to make reading everything faster.

Map trends:

Combine social media and geotracking with Twittermap, which allows users a chance to plug in and track what people are talking about where. For sociology and marketing students, such technology helps them better understand demographic needs and wants.

Keep parents informed:

When teaching the younger set, parents may like to follow along with what's going on in their children's day. Keep a Twitter feed updating them about the different lessons and activities as they happen for greater engagement between the home and the classroom.

Play a geography game:

Ask eager and willing tweeps to give their location, and put together a project mapping out where in the world they share. For kids just learning about distance, this makes for a lovely way to get them to know more about where everything is in relation to their own cities and towns.

Set up a poll:

Teachers might want to set up a Twitter poll for either their students or the broader microblogging community. The applications are limited only by one's own creativity; for an added bonus, combine the poll with some sort of geotracker.

_____ of the day:

No matter the class, a vocabulary word, book, song, quote or something else "of the day" might very well make an excellent supplement to the day's lesson. When teaching younger kids, tell their parents about the Twitter feed and encourage them to talk about postings at home.

Start a book club:

Within the industry but outside the classroom, some educators band together via Twitter and host their own book clubs. A common hashtag and communicative network is all it takes to share insight and recommendations.

Follow politicians:

Well...ones that won't "treat" the class to a faceful of wiener, anyways. All the same, though, following them on Twitter provides students with a quick glance at the lives and opinions of people shaping their countries for good or for ill.

Keep up with current events:

Similarly, educators can set up lists with different news sources, allowing their students to stay on top of

current events. Separate them by field for quicker access and even more comprehensive organization.

Capsule reviews:

Challenge kids (and adults!) alike to write up reviews for books, films and other

materials consumed in class. The 140-character limit teaches them how to remain concise while getting their main points across — and educates their followers in turn.

Communication between classes:

Beyond facilitating communication within the course itself, teachers may like the idea of connecting with similar ones in other cities, states or even countries. Set up a communal hashtag for students and professionals alike to use and exchange their views and lessons.

Host a Twitter scavenger hunt:

For fun and education, get students moving and organize a sort of Twitter scavenger hunts — maybe even see if other classrooms or professionals want to get involved. As with many of the projects listed here, such an activity can easily be applied to a wide number of grade levels and academic subjects.

Fun with historical figures:

Some instructors ask class participants to set up feeds roleplaying as significant figures in history, approaching microblog technology “in character.” Although one could easily incorporate scientists, artists, literary characters and plenty more into the fold as well.

Start a meme:

Memes actually existed long before the internet, but the virtual world certainly played a major role in bringing the phenomenon to public attention. Anyone studying communications, sociology and psychology can certainly benefit quite a bit from tracking or creating their own examples.

Supplement foreign language lessons:

Twitter’s unique spacing limitations make for an interesting way to nurture foreign language acquisition. Tweet a sentence in a foreign language at the beginning of the day or class and ask students to either translate or respond in kind as a quick, relatively painless supplement.

Review:

Nursery school teacher Ana Dominguez of Colegio de Alfragide likes using the popular microblogging tool to review the day’s activities and inform them of anything interesting other tweeps have to say. Not only does it help them reflect on their lessons and their world, but it also serves as a nice, guided introduction to social media.

Help students get their names out:

College professors hoping to nurture the professional future of their juniors and seniors might like the idea of teaching them the role of social media in job hunting. Business students into the whole “personal branding” fad will particularly benefit from comprehensively exploring such things.

Create a twibe:

Build networks beyond Twitter itself and set up (or have students set up) a twibe, bringing together other classrooms or professionals. These networks not only serve to broaden one’s perspective, but offer an interesting lesson in how online communities come together, sustain themselves or fall apart.

Please share any further ideas you have by leaving a comment – let’s see if we can get the list to over thirty!

[Edit this entry.](#)



20 Top Educational Tweeters

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on November 30, 2010 at 7:58 am

This is the first in a new series of blog posts where I will share some top tweeters with you. In future posts I will share specific lists e.g. primary heads who tweet, MFL tweeters etc but today I am sharing some general educational tweeters all of whom I've been very glad to be following in my first few weeks on Twitter. You may have more to add – and please do so by commenting.

This list consists of educational tweeters I have found particularly interesting, helpful, or engaging and is not based on any specific parameters such as number of tweets or followers. There is quite a range but I would recommend that each and every one of them is worth following.



(In Italics I have included profile info, the non italics are my own additional comments)

1. [**@SchoolDuggery**](#): *Keeping an independent and occasionally sardonic eye on schools and education. Nothing to sell but opinion is free.* Also has fantastic lists of educators, including subject specific lists which you can follow.
2. [**@Web20Classroom**](#): *Educator, Speaker, Blogger, [#Edchat](#) Co-Creator, [#140Conf](#) Character, NOW Award Winner, ASCD Conference Scholar. Do You Use Social Media In Education? My top resource for web 2.0 educational links online.*
3. [**@ShellTerrell**](#): *Passionate educator. Author of The 30 Goals Challenge, [#Edchat](#) & [#RSCON10](#) cofounder, VP of Edu Outreach [@Parentella](#), Soc Comm Mgr [@TheConsultantsE](#)*
4. [**@chilledteaching**](#): *KS1/2 UK Teacher; ICT&Assessment Specialism; Studying Ed.D.; [#ukedchat](#) initiator; Love Tech supporting Teaching & Learning; Dad of 2.*
5. [**@DeputyMitchell**](#): *Google Certified Teacher & Deputy Head teacher in Bolton! Can't get enough of ICT and new technologies help pupils get engaged and immersed in their learning. Also inspiring for anyone hoping to use blogging in the classroom.*
6. [**@TheHeadsOffice**](#): *Retired head teacher interested in all aspects of education & leadership. Learning through networking! Here to help! Always willing to offer advice or help and shares a wide range of excellent links too. Additionally she is writes constructive posts on classroom blogs so ask her nicely if you're looking for commenters!*
7. [**@CPDScotsman**](#): *Con Morris, Scottish National CPD team player, into online professional development for education*
8. [**@TeacherTalks**](#): *A teacher and left of centre politics-watcher, tweeting in support of my blog. The blog is particularly interesting and well written and sometimes controversial...*
9. [**@MrMichaelShaw**](#): *Journalist who mostly writes about education (but tweeting here in a personal capacity, often about other stuff)*
10. [**@SSAT**](#): *SSAT | Specialist Schools and Academies Trust | By schools, for schools | One world, one network. Authored by Robyn Evans & Jenny Lycett. Shares lots of very useful links*
11. [**@**](#): *Father of 2, Husband, physical education teacher and practitioner-researcher. Interested: meaningful professional dialogue & development that enhances practice*
12. [**@UKEdChat**](#): *Join [#ukedchat](#) every Thursday between 8-9pm for educators Twitter chat*
13. [**@WarwickMansell**](#): *Education journalist and erm...test/exam/accountability obsessive*
14. [**@TeacherToolKit**](#): *Assistant Principal, ASCL Council rep; former Teacher of the Year & SSAT Lead Practitioner; sharing ideas for the teaching world.*

15. [@EduVulture](#): Manchester boy, working in Canterbury, I am the leader of one of five small schools at the largest school in Canterbury England
16. [@IRIS_Connect](#): Iris Connect is an innovation in classroom based Professional Development training for teachers.
17. [@SexEdUKation](#): Sex & Relationships Education Teacher adviser/trainer/writer/campaigner. Apparently if I add wife and mother here it adds respectability?! Hmm.
18. [@MoodleMcKean](#): ILT/elearning strategist in UK FE college & MSc student. Interested in pedagogy, m & elearning, Moodle, PLEs & using tech to engage & add value to learning.
19. [@Deerwood](#): ICT Education Consultant, Trainer and Teacher. Interested in web2.0, education, mind mapping, self-development, transforming learning, handheld learning
20. [@csf0961](#): Regional manager for the Vital project in the southwest – ICT CPD
21. [@Ideas_Factory](#): Primary School Deputy-Enjoys Edcreating, Edteching & Edcolaborating.Has loads and loads of ideas! Yes, technically this is number 21 on a list of 20 but it's a late entry as I somehow overlooked him in compiling the original list...

I hope you find some interesting new tweeters to follow. If you're not doing so already, you may also like to follow me: [@CreativeEdu](#) for Education chat. Offers, News and Info about Creative Education's training courses for school staff and a chance to have an input and shape our courses. And to keep up with the blog of course!

Who's missing? Please leave a comment with your top educational tweeters – or tell people why they should follow you.

[Edit this entry.](#)



20 Top Education Tweeters – eLearning Enthusiasts

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 6, 2010 at 5:21 pm

This week's 20 top tweeters are all e-learning enthusiasts. Each tweeter on the list is someone I have found particularly interesting, engaging or who has shared a wide variety of useful links. For anyone who has an interest in e-learning I would suggest that each and every one is well worth a follow.



1. [@chrisleach78](#) – Head of ICT – Winchester House School.
2. [@CliveBuckley](#) – Educator with a particular interest in e-learning / technology-enhanced learning.
3. [@DigitalMaverick](#) – Learning technologist, Moodle evangelist and gig goer
4. [@deerwood](#) – ICT Education Consultant, Trainer and Teacher. Interested in web2.0, education, mind mapping, self development, transforming learning, handheld learning
5. [@DTester](#) – Assistant Headteacher at specialist technology college Shaping minds of the future through use of technology. E-Learning Digerati and all round good guy
6. [@dughall](#) – Interested in ICT, Education (E-Learning, Web 2.0), Music fan. Parent . (My tweets are my own views)
7. [@edtechroundup](#) – ...conversations about using technology in education.
8. [@fullonlearning](#) – Learning & teaching geek; creative learning developer & addict; tech lover; G&T consultant; ideas magpie;runner,cricketer,cyclist all views expressed my own
9. [@ianaddison](#) - Primary School Teacher and ICT Co-ordinator at a school in Hampshire. I'm also an ICT Mark Assessor and Google Certified Teacher. Ex-VLE consultant for Hants
10. [@iUsher](#) – BucksCC's E-Learning Co-ordinator using Moodle, Adobe Education Leader using Connect, music is my radar.
11. [@JamesMichie](#) – Husband, educator and technology enthusiast interested in e-learning, social media and communication.
12. [@kvnmc1](#) – Google Certified Teacher working in Primary ed. Keen user of tech to enhance teaching/learning
13. [@MoodleMcKean](#) – ILT/elearning strategist in UK FE college & MSc student. Interested in pedagogy, m & elearning, Moodle, PLEs & using tech to engage & add value to learning.
14. [@MrStucke](#) – Director of E-Learning at Stretford High School, Manchester, UK
15. [@mwclarkson](#) - Head of ICT & Computing, board member of Computing At School, teacher, believer in never standing still, moodler and geek.
16. [@PhoenixSher](#) – Teacher, ex-Deputy Head and now Leadership Associate working in secondary schools across the UK. Still love the challenge of teaching & supporting colleagues.
17. [@raff31](#) – LFC and a bit of ICT and a bit random...to quote Miss Newham!
18. [@](#) – Passionate educator. Author of The 30 Goals Challenge
19. [@tombarrett](#) – Inspiring and engaging learners with (and without) great educational technology.
20. [@xannov](#) - Porchester Junior School ICT Coordinator, website builder, Bectan Sands creator, 2DIY & 2CaSS archivist, promoter of new technologies in the classroom.

I hope you find some interesting new tweeters to follow. They are all in a [Twitter list here](#). If you're not doing so already, you may also like to follow me: [@](#) for Education chat. Offers, News and Info about Creative

Education's training courses for school staff and a chance to have an input and shape our courses. And to keep up with the blog of course!

Who's missing? Please leave a comment with your top e-learning enthusiasts – or tell readers why they should follow you.

[Edit this entry.](#)



20 Top Educational Tweeters: EdTech

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on January 12, 2011 at 11:32 am

My Twitter Timeline is going crazy with tweets about [#LWF11](#) and [#BETT11](#) so I thought a good theme for this week's 20 Top Tweeters would be Ed Tech.

I'm not claiming these are THE top 20 Ed tech tweeters, but if you're at all interested in using technology in the classroom then each and every one is worth a follow.

They all provide great links, great chat and great ideas for using technology in the classroom. A number of them also have fantastic blogs too which are also linked to below.



1. [@alanmills405](#) *Global Education, Innovation and New Technologies. Speaker and consultant. Adviser on new tech worldwide. Long connection to African education:* [Blog](#)
2. [@BrainPop_UK](#) *BrainPOP UK, with Tim & Moby, is a cross curricular website for schools, teachers, parents and kids featuring animated movies, interactive quizzes and more:* [Blog](#)
3. [@briankotts](#) *Educator. Tweets on ALL things Ed & ICT :* [Blog](#)
4. [@C4LPT](#) *Founder, Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies (C4LPT) :*[Blog](#)
5. [@Cybraryman1](#) *Educator & Writer trying to catalog the internet for students, educators and parents:*[Blog](#)
6. [@Darcy1968](#) *Learner, educator, deputy principal, English teacher, digital technologies enthusiast, blogger, music-lover, photographer, macros with a Nikon D90. INTJ:*[Blog](#)
7. [@Dughall](#) *Interested in ICT, Education (E-Learning, Web 2.0), Music fan. Parent . (My tweets are my own views):*[Blog](#)
8. [@EdTechSandyK](#) *K-12 Inst. Tech Specialist. Working on MEd. Hoping to build bridges between thinkers in the cloud & teachers in classroom. Tweets represent me not my employer:*[Blog](#)
9. [@ewanmcintosh](#) *We build & invest in tech/web startups (<http://www.notosh.com>) then export the way they work to schools & universities all over the world (edu.blogs.com)*
10. [@ipodsibilities](#) *Gonna start a revolution... spreading the word about teaching & learning with iPods and iPads!:*[Blog](#)
11. [@LarryFerlazzo](#) *Inner-city High School teacher — ESL & Mainstream:* [Blog](#)
12. [@MarkBrumley](#) *Educational technology leader committed to 21st Century learners and their teachers. Technology trainer. Presenter. Edublogger. Father of 2:*[Blog](#)
13. [@McLeod](#) *Associate Professor. CASTLE Director. Blogger. Idea generator. Solution builder. Agitator. Catalyst. "If the leaders don't get it, it's not going to happen.":*[Blog](#)
14. [@MoodleMcKean](#) *ILT/elearning strategist in UK FE college & MSc student. Interested in pedagogy, m & elearning, Moodle, PLEs & using tech to engage & add value to learning:*[Blog](#)
15. [@NickPeachey](#) *Freelance Learning Technology Consultant, Writer, Teacher Trainer:*[Blog](#)
16. [@russeltarr](#) *History Teacher, author of ActiveHistory.co.uk + ClassTools.net; keen to share ideas / links with other web2.0 educators!:*[Blog](#)
17. [@Simfin](#) *Presenter and specialist on e learning, new technologies and e safety. Will work for pie:*[Blog](#)
18. [@timbuckteeth](#) *Web 2.0 researcher, author of *The Digital Classroom*, Associate Professor of learning technology, international speaker, disruptive activist:*[Blog](#)
19. [@TomBarrett](#) *Inspiring and engaging learners with (and without) great educational technology:*[Blog](#)

20. [@Web20Classroom](#) Educator, Speaker, Blogger, [#Edchat](#) Co-Creator, [#140Conf](#) Character, NOW Award Winner, ASCD Conference Scholar. Do You Use Social Media In Education?:[Blog](#)
21. [@Whatedsaid](#) I'm a teacher and a learner in a PYP school, with a passion for technology:[Blog](#)

I hope you find some interesting new tweeters to follow. They are all in a [Twitter List Here](#) If you're not doing so already, you may also like to follow me: [@CreativeEdu](#) for Education chat. Offers, News and Info about Creative Education's training courses for school staff and a chance to have an input and shape our courses. And to keep up with the blog of course!

You may also be interested in:

- [Twitter for Teachers: A Guide for Beginners](#)
- [20 Top Education Tweeters: Primary School Leaders](#)
- [20 Top Education Tweeters: eLearning Enthusiasts](#)
- [20 Top Education Tweeters: Newbies](#)
- [Top Twitter Hashtags for Teachers](#)

Who's missing? Please leave a comment with your suggestions– or tell readers why they should follow you.

[Edit this entry.](#)



20 Top Education Tweeters – Primary School Leaders

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 13, 2010 at 8:49 pm

This week's 20 Top Tweeters are all primary (elementary) school leaders. I'm really pleased with this list which has a really wide range of tweeters. They have in common that they are all very active users of Twitter and if you follow them you can expect to see a wide range of great links shared, and have some great folk to bounce your ideas off.



1. [@Charlie1312](#) Deputy Head, Infant – Yr 12. Determined to educate 21st century kids! 876 followers
2. [@dawnhallybone](#) eacher and mum – before the beginning of great brilliance there must be chaos! 1244 followers
3. [@DeputyHeadDunn](#) Currently a Deputy Head Teacher in a Primary School. Author of: How to be an Outstanding Primary Teacher – Continuum Books. 222 Followers
4. [@DeputyMitchell](#) Google Certified Teacher & Deputy Headteacher in Bolton! Can't get enough of ICT and new technologies help pupils get engaged and immersed in their learning. 1670 followers
5. [@DianneSpencer](#) Headteacher, B.Ed Hons, M.Sc., like to share innovative ideas, technology skills improving! Wife and Mum, 2 daughters. Love outdoors, walking, MTB, wildlife. 733 followers
6. [@gillpenny](#) Head Teacher, wife, mother, Apple enthusiast, ADE. 546 followers
7. [@Glynnlee](#) Husband, dad and deputy head. Interested in all things interesting. Love technology that 'just works', activities that excite and trying to make a difference. 97 followers
8. [@GrahamCullen](#) Primary school headteacher in Nottingham; interested in engaging learners with new technologies. 324 followers
9. [@ianaddison](#) Primary School Teacher and ICT Co-ordinator at a school in Hampshire. I'm also an ICT Mark Assessor and Google Certified Teacher. Ex-VLE consultant for Hants. 1495 followers
10. [@Ideas_Factory](#) Primary School Deputy-Enjoys Edcreating, Edteching & Edcolaborating.Has loads and loads of ideas! 1246 followers
11. [@FionaHenryVital](#) Teacher, educational developer and now Regional Manager for the Vital Programme in the South East. Passionate about the effective use of ICT in the classroom. 412 followers
12. [@frogphilp](#) Educator and pub-theorist. 358 followers
13. [@Joga5](#) Primary Literacy Adviser.Interest in Boys' and Literacy, Multimodality and e-learning. Avid collector of children's books. 991 followers
14. [@Michelle_Hill](#) Deputy Head Teacher at Leamore Primary, with unhealthy interest in all things ICT related. 466 followers
15. [@TheHeadsOffice](#) Retired head teacher interested in all aspects of education & leadership. Learning through networking!Here to help! 811 followers
16. [@TheNewHead](#) Headteacher of a primary school in the UK. Views expressed here are mine and not my schools or employers.471 followers
17. [@Peter_O'Brien](#) I'm a Y6 teacher + Assistant Head in inner city. Interested in using new + innovative ways of bringing technologies into the classroom. 344 followers
18. [@PhilAllman1](#) HT of Junior School. Was HT of Middle school for 4yrs. Sec trained but ended up in

primary. Love my job but love wife, kids and walking in the Lakes a lot more! 203 followers

19. [@Smichael920](#) *Primary Headteacher & Head of Primary Network for SSAT, blogger and father of 5. Interested in education, technology, music & art. 1037 followers*
20. [@stevebunce](#) *VITAL ICT Leader for NE England. Digital Storytelling, Game-based learning, consoles in schools, tabletop whiteboards 2222 followers*

I hope you find some interesting new tweeters to follow. They are all in a [Twitter List Here](#). If you're not doing so already, you may also like to follow me: [@CreativeEdu](#) for Education chat. Offers, News and Info about Creative Education's training courses for school staff and a chance to have an input and shape our courses. And to keep up with the blog of course!

Who's missing? Please leave a comment with your top primary leaders– or tell readers why they should follow you.

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20 Top Educational Tweeters: Newbies

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on December 21, 2010 at 11:55 am

This week's Top 20 Tweeters are all educators who are new to Twitter. I wanted to make sure that everyone on the list, whilst new, was an active tweeter (not one of those accounts opened but left to gather dust) so everyone here has tweeted at least 20 times and at least once within the last four days. It can be a bit difficult getting going on Twitter as I'm sure you well remember so as it's the season of good will, think about adding these up and coming tweeters to your personal learning network.



1. [@DebbieC1230](#) *First Grade Teacher, loves science, enjoys photography, loves to learn and help others stretch their thinking, have twins and a cat*
2. [@GeoffWickens](#) *Deputy Head and KS3 Science teacher – also governor of another primary school in Northampton*
3. [@gpyear4](#) *The life and times of Green Park's Year 4*
4. [@HarryVonHonks](#) *SEN Guru Inclusion Wizard Believer in & voice of disaffected Youth in a crap and outdated secondary education system. Lover of Peace n Good Music*
5. [@JHughes71](#) *Presently Year 6 teacher. Formerly journalist.*
6. [@JillEllamEB](#) *Primary Numeracy Consultant with EB*
7. [@joolzconway](#) *Year 6 teacher, into science and technology, having fun and making a difference*
8. [@kesmfl](#) *Deputy Head Academic & teacher of French, German & English Language at King Edward VI School Southampton*
9. [@misshbond](#) *Doing my NQT year in Year 1 at a Primary School in Bristol. Geek when it comes to investigating new technology that can aid learning. Totally new to Twitter!*
10. [@mistercmj](#) *'m Craig Jones – teacher & deputy head at Hambrook in South Glos. I am excited by innovative teaching and am keen to connect professionally to like minds*
11. [@Pete_Rodrigues](#) *English Educator, Husband, Father, Injury plagued runner, wanderer*
12. [@ReTeach10](#) *UK Secondary School (11-18) RE, Phil and History teacher! Keen to try new technology, looking for innovating pedagogy, sharing ideas about RE and education!*
13. [@RichardSW16](#) *NQT in ICT teaching in London 6th form college after 15 years in IT/Web management*
14. [@RichMiller66](#) *I teach history at an 11-18 school. Interested in politics, military news/history.*
15. [@rsdiscos](#) *Currently teaching Y6 at a school in Sandwell. Also ICT Coordinator, looking at ways to facilitate learning through ICT. Married to Melissa and dad to 2 boys*
16. [@Stephen_Logan](#) *Stephen Logan Business Champion at Malet Lambert School A Specialist Language College*
17. [@SueRobinson2](#) *Headteacher, blogger for National Education Trust and member of BELMAS council.*
18. [@Tracyann143](#) *Deputy Head in Plymouth; still a Music teacher at heart; Mum to two gorgeous boys*
19. [@TweetBleat](#) *mum of three, wife and headteacher..loves ICT use but a bit of phobia using it myself!*

20. [@Whorwe](#) Y6 teacher in Kent. Always on the lookout for new ways to inspire my class, especially ICT.

I hope you find some interesting new tweeters to follow. They are all in a [Twitter List Here](#) If you're not doing so already, you may also like to follow me: [@CreativeEdu](#) for Education chat. Offers, News and Info about Creative Education's training courses for school staff and a chance to have an input and shape our courses. And to keep up with the blog of course!

You may also be interested in:

- [Twitter for Teachers: A Guide for Beginners](#)
- [20 Top Education Tweeters: Primary School Leaders](#)
- [20 Top Education Tweeters: eLearning Enthusiasts](#)
- [Top Twitter Hashtags for Teachers](#)

Who's missing? Please leave a comment with your suggestions– or tell readers why they should follow you.

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20 Top Tweeters for Maths Teachers

Posted by Pooky Hesmondhalgh on February 16, 2011 at 3:51 pm

This list of top tweeters is specifically designed with maths teachers in mind. Many of the tweeters are fellow maths teachers from across the globe whilst others are people who get very excited about maths and just love to tweet about it. Many of these people tweet about a lot besides maths but I think each of them would be a valuable addition to your timeline if you're a maths teacher or interested in maths. Follow them if you'd like links, ideas and conversation about maths and maths teaching.



1. [@10Ticks](#) *Maths Mogul and World Traveller (Bolton to Preston). Check out our fantastic new maths online learning system at [10ticks.co.uk](http://www.10ticks.co.uk)*
<http://www.10ticks.co.uk>
2. [@ColinTGraham](#) *Teacher, trainer, coach, linguist, singer, musician, composer, arranger*
3. [@dansmath](#) *math teacher author webmaster podcaster runner* <http://www.dansmath.com>
4. [@davidwees](#) *Father. Activist. Canadian. Educational technology consultant. Math & Science teacher. Geek & Skeptic. On TEDxKIDSBC & Edcamp Vancouver planning teams.* <http://davidwees.com>
5. [@icecolbeveridge](#) *Maths tutor, trainer and trouble-shooter. No good tutors near you? Try distance learning with me.* <http://www.flyingcoloursmaths.co.uk>
6. [@intmath](#) *Learner, trainer, math enthusiast* <http://www.intmath.com/>
7. [@johnfaig](#) *Tech Coordinator and Math Teacher; Working on Masters at Columbia; Web 2.0 fan; Ex-investment analyst* <http://johnfaig.blogspot.com/>
8. [@JulieeJohnsonn](#) *I'm a mom, spec ed teacher & writer of a 'Regency comedic mystery'. My teaching blog is www.betterthanworksheets.com. It links to my games based learning site!*
<http://busywriting.wordpress.com/>
9. [@lcarroll94](#) *Director of Technology/ Math Teacher at Hamden Hall Country Day School. Hamden, CT*
<http://lorricarroll.wordpress.com>
10. [@BucharestTutor](#) *Offering Math Home Tutoring for all levels and grades including IB, IGCSE & SAT Mathematics.*<http://www.bucharesttutor.com>
11. [@mathsatschool](#) *I'm a Maths teacher in suburban London. Tweeting generally about maths and teaching. Studying for MA in Maths Ed.*
12. [@mathheadinc](#) *Teaching, tutoring math and calculus, with enthusiasm and an ever present sense of wonder, to students 7 & up since 1995. Anyone can learn anything!* <http://www.mathheadinc.com>
13. [@MathIsMyLife](#) *Maths is my Life – I love numbers and the near limitless number of things you can do with them. I help kids learn basic maths* <http://bit.ly/TeBMu>
14. [@mathnasium](#) *Mathnasium Learning Centers: our mission is to teach children math the way that makes sense to them.* <http://www.mathnasium.com>
15. [@MoreThanMaths](#) *Teacher of maths and ICT, student of French, aspiring edublogger and general lurker. I follow educators, maths and science people, plus a few others.*
<http://www.morethanmaths.com/teacher>
16. [@rmosvold](#) *Associate Professor of mathematics education at the University of Stavanger, Norway.*
<http://mathedresearch.wordpress.com>
17. [@TimStirrup](#) *mathematics education for NCETM, ICT are my work interests, I'm an 'old' triathlete and now into Ballet, through son's participation.* <http://www.ncetm.org.uk>

18. [**@TomBarrett**](http://edte.ch/blog) *Inspiring and engaging learners with (and without) great educational technology.*
<http://edte.ch/blog>
19. [**@VideoMathTutor**](http://videomathtutor.com) *I'm Luis Anthony Ast. Proud Arizona Semi-Native. Math Tutor and Producer of The *BEST* Math Content on The Internet. Mathematics is Now Fun and Easy to Learn!*
<http://videomathtutor.com>
20. [**@wildaboutmath**](http://WildAboutMath.com) *Math blogger at Wild About Math! Making Math fun and accessible*
<http://WildAboutMath.com>

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