
THE EDTECH PODCAST PRESENTS



The Hackney Edition

Episode 3: Jeremy Harris, E-Learning, The Learning Trust

TX: May, 2016

THE EDTECH PODCAST - THE HACKNEY EDITION

CONTACTS:

Email: theedtechpodcast@gmail.com

Twitter: @PodcastEdtech

Facebook & Instagram: The Edtech Podcast

WHAT'S FEATURED IN THIS EPISODE?

- The establishment of the not-for-profit Learning Trust in Hackney
- The ambiguous future of The Learning Trust, following Government announcements for full academisation
- Collaboration on technology best practice between academies and non-academies in Hackney
- Google apps for education, Apple i-pad and BBC Micro: bit
- Low-cost computers such as Pi-top
- CPD programmes and support which leads to 'technologically competent and aware teachers'
- Investment in Edtech within Hackney schools
- Sharing knowledge through informal and formal channels
- External visits to Hackney and case study: Our Lady's Convent High School
- Using Edtech to assist schools with ESOL challenges where multiple languages are present
- Using technology to enhance reading learning, in addition to analogue materials
- Addressing the concern that technology may worsen inequality
- Early school opening times to increase access to technology
- Funding mechanisms; BYOD vs school investment and hybrid models
- How the learning trust and Hackney regeneration team are working with business, including RBS & Founders and Coders, to increase external computing expertise into schools
- Controlled assessment at GCSE

Tags:

LEA, CPD, chromebooks, Pi-top, low cost computers, mobile learning strategies, academisation, collaboration, google apps, Ipad, ESOL, reading, inequality, funding, business, controlled assessment

Quotes:

On academisation: 'It's not a positive looking future'

On use of technology in Hackney schools: 'The schools in Hackney have really maximised the use of technology.' 'In my experience the Hackney schools have always seen the benefits of technology'

On technologically savvy teachers and leaders in Hackney: 'We have very technologically aware, competent and confident teachers and senior leaders who can see the benefit of that investment.'

On evidence-based Edtech: 'We are very much looking at the efficacy of technology, rather than technology for technology's sake.'

Sharing knowledge: 'Really positive sharing of knowledge, experiences and different approaches'

THE EDTECH PODCAST - THE HACKNEY EDITION

On BBC Micro:bit: 'Timing has been key here. If they arrive 6 weeks before the first GCSE exams then that's going to put pressure on teachers to look at it further.' 'I think the timing suggests its something the secondary school teachers will pick up now after the exams.'

Edtech at Our Lady's Convent High School : 'It meets students expectations which is really important and i'm going to say it's a time-saver.' 'It's absolutely led by the pedagogy, not the technology, trying to enhance what was done previously not just augment tasks'

Business support: 'The broader City of London and Tech city have offered phenomenal support'

Edtech for reading: 'I'm adamant that using technology to engage children in reading is fantastically successful.' 'We absolutely encourage children to read traditional books as well.'

On access: 'Key stage 4, key stage 5...access to technology is almost essential.'

On teacher pressure: 'It's a a really challenging environment out there at the moment. There is immense pressure.'

Reading and resources:

[The Learning Trust](#)

[Pi-top](#)

[City of London](#)

[ESOL](#)

[Our Lady's Convent High School](#)

[BBC Micro:bit](#)

[Founders and Coders](#)

[RBS Education](#)

[Google apps for education](#)

[Apple i-pad](#)

BACKGROUND TO THE HACKNEY EDITION:

Hackney is a small borough of East London, home to only 246, 000, but carrying one of the highest population densities in the capital. By 2020 Hackney will need an extra set of places equivalent to three new primary schools and two new secondary schools to cope with demand.

Within the borough sits 27, 000 pupils in over 70 schools, nurseries and play centres; the borough recognised 88 spoken languages in the 2011 census and just over a third of respondents to the same census described themselves as White British, with vibrant African, Caribbean, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Australian communities in the mix, alongside those religious communities recognised as Jewish, Muslim or Christian.

To put some context on the educational turn around: In 1999, when an Audit Commission report found that Hackney had presided over the largest fall in GCSE results in the country, the Labour Government intervened, putting Hackney's Local Education Authorities into special measures, and taking direct control of education services away from the council. Thus was borne the humble academy as David Blunkett's intervention led to the creation of the Learning Trust, a bespoke not-for-profit company set up to take on the functions of Hackney's failing LEA and report directly to the Secretary of State for Education. Out of this system came the oft lauded Mossbourne Academy, led by now-head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw to be considered one of the

best schools in the country. And whereas In 2002, Hackney's Key Stage 2 results were the worst in the country, and less than a third of students were achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, in 2014, that figure was above the national average at 61 per cent, with some schools achieving as high as 91 per cent.

That is to say that well documented for being deprived, things in Hackney are changing: In the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Hackney ranked 2nd in the country. In 2015 Hackney had dropped down to eleventh, indicating that Hackney is becoming less deprived relative to other local authority areas in England. In addition, Hackney has experienced rapid economic growth over the last 15 years. In 2012, London Borough of Hackney hosted 13, 000 firms, a 40% increase from 2004. More crucially, Hackney is well represented in London's current growth industries. Companies in key knowledge industries comprise 55% of Hackney's economy (7,840 firms), 3% more than in the rest of London. When we think about Tech initiatives who have chosen Hackney as their home, the case studies are multiple:

- Here East - the former press and broadcast centre on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park offering 1.2 million sqft of commercial space for London's creative and digital industries, valued at £90m.
- Tech City - based in Shoreditch, London based tech companies raised \$1.6billion in the first nine months of 2015, with 4808 of those companies based at the Shoreditch silicon roundabout.
- Emerge Education - Hackney-based edtech start up accelerator and part of the estimated £45bn global valued edtech industry

Yet over a quarter of Hackney's working aged residents are economically inactive.

NEXT TIME:

Make sure you subscribe to the Edtech Podcast on iTunes to hear subsequent Hackney edition interviews with non other than

- a variety of Edtech start ups based in Hackney
 - a Hackney primary school teacher AND
 - the head of digital at the Victoria and Albert museum
-