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Resources, jobs and professional development for teachers

Series: Live Q&As

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The role of technology in gifted and talented education - live chat

Join us to explore how digital learning can engage and inspire gifted and talented students in a live chat on Tuesday 22 January, 6pm to 8pm

Kerry Eustice
Guardian Professional, Wednesday 16 January 2013 14.56 GMT
Jump to comments (4)



How can teachers use technology to engage gifted students? Join our live chat to discuss the role of digital in gifted and talented learning. Photograph: Alamy

Are you familiar with the ZPD theory? I've just come across it, thanks to the [Irish Gifted Education blog](#) by [Dazzled and Frazzled](#) (otherwise known as Catherine Riordan and Karen McCarthy).

For those as new to the theory as I am, ZPD, aka the zone of proximal development, was coined by Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky, famous for his work into the development of cognitive skills in children.

Giving (to me, at least) greater clarity to the saying "in the zone", ZPD is the space between a child's current and potential level of development.

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It matters here because, according to blogger Karen McCarthy, "the ZPD has particular resonance for highly able learners" and it also highlights the role of differentiation in teaching these students.

On the blog, she writes: "All students need to be required to work in their ZPD on a regular basis, including gifted learners. Where most students experience this level of challenge daily, highly able children for whom the regular curriculum holds less challenge may not... we must find a way to ensure that gifted pupils enter their ZPD. Effective differentiation can go some way to this goal."

As well as gifted and talented education, there's another area that differentiation comes up a lot: education technology.

Pinpointing the interesting relationship between all three areas - edu tech, G&T and differentiation - back on the Irish Gifted Education blog, [Lindsey Wright sums up the potential of tech and online for gifted students](#): "Yet all too often, the traditional school model leaves gifted kids feeling bored, restless or trapped... Being able to turn to an online school allows these students to reach beyond the classroom and participate in classes that they wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to take."

To explore technology and gifted and talented education in more detail, the Guardian [Teacher Network](#) has partnered with IGGY - an international online network for bright and creative young people aged 13-18, created by the University of Warwick.

We'll be discussing how schools are using technology to support gifted and talented students and profiling challenges, benefits, trends and best practice. Join our panel to share ideas, experiences and tips on Tuesday 22 January, 6pm to 8pm.

The live chat is now open for advance questions and comments - please post those below. You can also email comments to kerry.eustice@guardian.co.uk or tweet us via [@guardianteach](#).

Our panel: TBC

This content is brought to you by [Guardian Teacher Network](#) in association with IGGY. Produced by Guardian Professional to a brief agreed with IGGY. Paid for by IGGY. All editorial controlled and overseen by the Guardian.



computer games to get his students excited about learning. Here, he talks about technophobia, teaching and trusting kids with tech

13 comments



Tablets, laptops and mobiles in the classroom: top tips from teachers

Tablets, laptops and mobiles aren't there to replace traditional teaching tools, but designed to complement them. Our panel of education experts share advice on using one to one devices in schools

2 comments



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Stephen Carrick-Davies finds out whether it is time to rethink the restrictions many schools have on pupils' use of mobile phones

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