



## Charmaine Roynon – Growing great teachers

### Overview

**Country:** South Africa

**Location:** Cape Town, Western Cape

**Industry:** Education

### Software and services:

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program

### Websites:

<https://education.microsoft.com/>  
[www.wynberggirlsjunior.co.za/](http://www.wynberggirlsjunior.co.za/)

### Partners:

SchoolNet SA

Charmaine Roynon, a Cape Town based Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert is a teacher who has fully adopted the belief that the presence of technology in education can enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Charmaine is currently the ICT Integrator at Wynberg Girl's Junior School (WGJS) and Head of Curriculum Development and Teacher Training at EDU 365 SA. Charmaine says, "Working in the Education space is an ongoing adventure – it is dynamic and exciting. I thrive on working with curriculum and learning new, authentic methods to deliver curriculum. I would like to see teachers being given far, far more time to learn, engage with and implement technology in meaningful way – to use technology as a relevant teaching, administration and delivery tool."

Charmaine has found the Microsoft Ambassador for Cape Town, Elsabe Hart, to be a great source of encouragement to her as she has expanded her use of technology in the classroom at her previous and current school. She says, "Elsabe Hart has been invaluable on my journey with O365! She is extremely knowledgeable, patient and efficient. Despite the fact that she is extremely busy, she always makes time to visit and work with me and provide support and keep me informed of updates and more."

Charmaine loves using the Microsoft cloud platform saying, "with O365, I am able to organize my very busy life and make my job as a teacher trainer relevant, meaningful and exciting!" At her previous school, Charmaine felt that the school would benefit from the powerful O365 tools and undertook to adopt this platform and to sign up as a Microsoft School. Once the accounts were set up, she introduced the teachers and students to the O365 dashboard, Office Mix and Sway. Charmaine has subsequently moved on to Wynberg Girl's Junior School and she says "I am looking forward to starting this journey once our O365 has been activated".

Charmaine's role at EDU 365, she conducts O365 training with teachers from a range of schools and hopes to get them as excited about using technology as she is. "I think I motivate teachers by my sheer passion and enthusiasm about these powerful tools. Because I am an educator and I have worked in IT integration for many years, I know what 'hooks' teachers."

Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts advance the conversation about improving student outcomes through innovative uses of technology in teaching and learning.





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*Charmaine Roynon,  
ICT Integrator at WGJS in Cape Town*

### For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

[www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx)

To find out about the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program, see:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/educators/miee/default.aspx>

For more information about Wynberg Girls Junior School visit:

[www.wynberggirlsjunior.co.za](http://www.wynberggirlsjunior.co.za)

### Training others

WGJS is a very well resourced school in terms of teacher devices and Charmaine's role involves ensuring that teachers are able to use these tools effectively. She finds that the teachers at WGJS are enthusiastic and interested in integrating ICT into the curriculum, and attend regular training.

"The teachers are required to attend monthly professional development afternoons. I make sure that my development session has a spot at least twice a term. I try to vary further training to suit our teachers. For example, I regularly hold a Muffin morning in my room where teachers have conversations about the technology they need to use."

To ensure that teachers feel supported, each grade has an IT Champion who ensures that their colleagues keep up to date. Charmaine is also hoping to grow eight Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts, which will develop further in-house skills.

### Sharing expertise

Charmaine believes strongly in sharing expertise. "I would like to see advantaged schools sharing their expertise more with disadvantaged schools. Education is definitely moving into a digital space where more learners will have access to resources and tools." To this end she introduced a "Crack the Code – Promoting Cerebral Fitness" Conference to expose the wider school community to coding, robotics and the critical thinking skills it addresses. "The WGJS girls already work in Kodu, Minecraft, Scratch, Alice 3, [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) and Code Monkey. This two day conference allowed WGJS teachers and other presenters to introduce coding to the wider school community."

The second initiative is still in the pipeline but it involves forming a Wynberg Teacher's Academy – called "Growing Great Teachers". This will be a professional development hub at WGJS where teachers will have the opportunity to share best practice with others. Charmaine says: "Good teachers help other teachers find the good teacher in themselves".

### Students using O365

WGJS will be implementing a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) system this year and Charmaine believes that using the O365 platform will help to ensure the success of this system despite the school not prescribing which devices they must use. In Charmaine's experience, Windows laptops are the most popular choice, but says that an advantage of O365 is that girls can still access all the Microsoft tools on other devices.

Charmaine enjoys using a range of Microsoft tools such as Office Mix, Sway and O365 in general. She says, "Roll on Microsoft Teams and Classroom!". She considers herself privileged to have such a fulfilling and exciting career in the area of ICT integration and believes that Microsoft has a big role to play in South Africa. "I would like to see the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" narrow and disappear with the input of institutions like Microsoft continuing to contribute where they can."

### Key Technology

- Office 365
- Skype
- Office Mix
- Sway