



Matthew Hains – Building skills through technology integration



Overview

Country: South Africa

Location: Sandton, Gauteng

Industry: Education

Software and services:

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program
Office 2016

Websites:

www.crawfordschools.co.za
www.techteachers.co.za
education.microsoft.com

Partners:

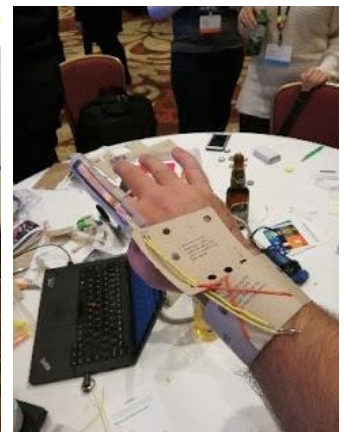
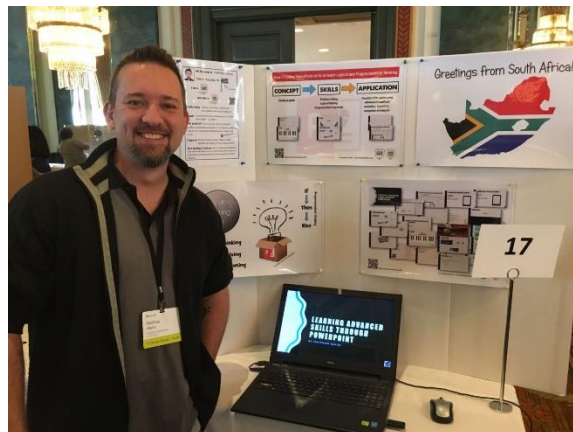
SchoolNet SA

Matthew Hains says that he started integrating technology into his lessons to make teaching more accessible and access to knowledge more powerful. He has also found that technology has assisted with streamlining administrative tasks and bringing an element of modernity to the classroom. As a computer applications teacher Matthew needs to ensure that his students know how to use Office applications – but he also tries to ensure that the activities he presents provide opportunities for students to challenge themselves and to develop logical thinking skills at the same time.

In 2017 Matthew had the opportunity to represent South Africa at the Global Education Exchange (E2) held in Toronto, Canada. E2 is a Forum that brings together innovative educators from around the world to and share their experiences on how to integrate technology to advance learning. As part of this event, teachers are required to present a project or lesson that they have developed at a “learning market-place” – which provides an opportunity for them to share their idea with other educators, and to “shop” for ideas by visiting the stalls other teachers have set up.

In the learning market place, Matthew presented an activity that he often does with his students involving using PowerPoint to create a game. Whilst this may sound simple, students incorporated advanced options such as naming objects on the slide and using triggers for animations to make their games increasingly more intriguing. The games also got students thinking about logical processes and flowcharts as they followed an “If – Then – Else” approach to determine what would happen as a player worked through the game.

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





CrawfordSchools™
Pre-Primary · Preparatory · College



LEAD INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

"I integrate technology into every lesson. It empowers students to do more, more efficiently!"

"As an educator of fourteen years and having a passion for technology, I am drawn to utilizing technology in all aspects of my life including my teaching. I am inspired by changes in mindsets when it comes to questioning how and why we educate the way we do."

- Matthew Hains
Crawford College - Sandton

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx

To find out about the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program, see: <http://www.educatornetwork.com/Sites/Educators/Index>

For more information about Crawford College visit: www.crawfordschools.co.za

Visit the TechTeachers blog curated by Matthew Hains: www.techteachers.co.za

"As a result of using ICT in the classroom we are teaching with a much more skills-based approach and we are learning how to apply these skills to real-world contexts. It is no longer about rote learning but rather the application of knowledge with the use of technology."

Matthew says, "What I love about PowerPoint is the ability of the program to provide much more than what is seen on the surface. I like to show my students that it is indeed a very powerful application, capable of making presentations come alive and become interactive. Animations, although subtle, can be used effectively to enhance content and guide the user. I like to touch on things that a lot of 'average' users of PowerPoint wouldn't normally know about or use much, for example: animation triggers, multi-animations on a single slide with named objects, advanced image editing, hyperlinks and navigation."

In addition to showcasing his own project, Matthew enjoyed seeing what other teachers had produced. "Teachers were not only given the opportunity to showcase their work but also had plenty of time to "shop around" at other booths, gaining ideas and inspiration from other teachers from all around the world. The interaction of teachers from all over the globe is something to be witnessed!"

Collaborating with others

As part of the E2 Exchange program, teachers were put into groups and given a "hacker persona" and a challenge to #MakeWhatsNext by brainstorming and presenting an idea of a new addition or feature that should be included in an existing Microsoft product.

Matthew reports, "my group ran with my initial idea of a Collaboration add-in/feature in the ribbon of Microsoft products which allows a user to instantly have access to an online professional, a colleague or resource without leaving the application. A user would also have the ability to share the document/screen for real-time collaboration with whomever you've connected with via a webcam and Skype or other collaborative software to work on a currently open document."

This idea won an award for the group of teachers from diverse nationalities who came together to develop and pitch their idea. The activity also provided teachers from different countries to work together collaboratively and to network and share tips and experiences whilst doing so. As Matthew comments, this is perhaps the real prize for Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts who attend E2.

"The Microsoft E2 Educator Exchange is a once-in-a-lifetime experience worth every minute. Being exposed to new technologies, new ways of thinking and ideas from teachers of all subjects from all around the world, is an experience that ignites one with a renewed vigor for teaching with technology.

I was inspired by new ways of using various applications such as OneNote and Sway. I took consolation in the fact that I was not alone as a teacher, that many other teachers in schools across the globe face the similar issues and challenges as us here in South Africa and require innovative teachers and students to address these issues and overcome these challenges.

I gained a new respect for the incredibly powerful Microsoft OneNote, both as an organizational tool and assessment facilitator. I saw how teacher and student can collaborate on projects together, receive immediate feedback in a tangible form and how the software aids communication between teacher, student and also amongst staff members. OneNote handled all forms of files types effortlessly and streamlined the entire process of certain tasks from drafts to final versions.

Key Technology

- Microsoft Office
- OneNote
- Sway
- Skype