



*“Technology alone will not unlock learning opportunities”*

Dear Parents,

Last week I was invited to speak about digital learning at the School Leaders Summit at BETT (British Education Training and Technology). BETT is one of the world's premier technology educational conferences welcoming on average 35,000 visitors including at least 10,000 from overseas. My colleagues Aisling Brown and Alex van Dijk were also invited to give a presentation on the creation of iBook Textbooks.



As world leaders in our use of technology in education, it is a privilege to share our digital experience with others. Our key message is simple. It is all about the pedagogy. Teaching and learning should be driving technological innovation seeking to unlock new ways for our students to learn. If you would like to find out more about our approach please do read my blog: [‘So what about the pedagogy?’](#)



I also look forward to presenting our vision for learning in a digital age as part of the launch of our STEAM event on Thursday 4th February. This is a sell-out event and I look forward to seeing parents and students from across the Foundation.

Best wishes,  
Tricia Kelleher  
Principal



## 50,000 iBook downloads

In January 2015 the Stephen Perse Foundation published 12 Biology iBooks Textbooks, written by Alex van Dijk and created by Aisling Brown to apply instructional design principles to enhance and extend cognitive understanding in a new way. These iBooks apply research into literacy, education, technology and psychology to offer students a new way of learning, and teachers a new way of teaching.

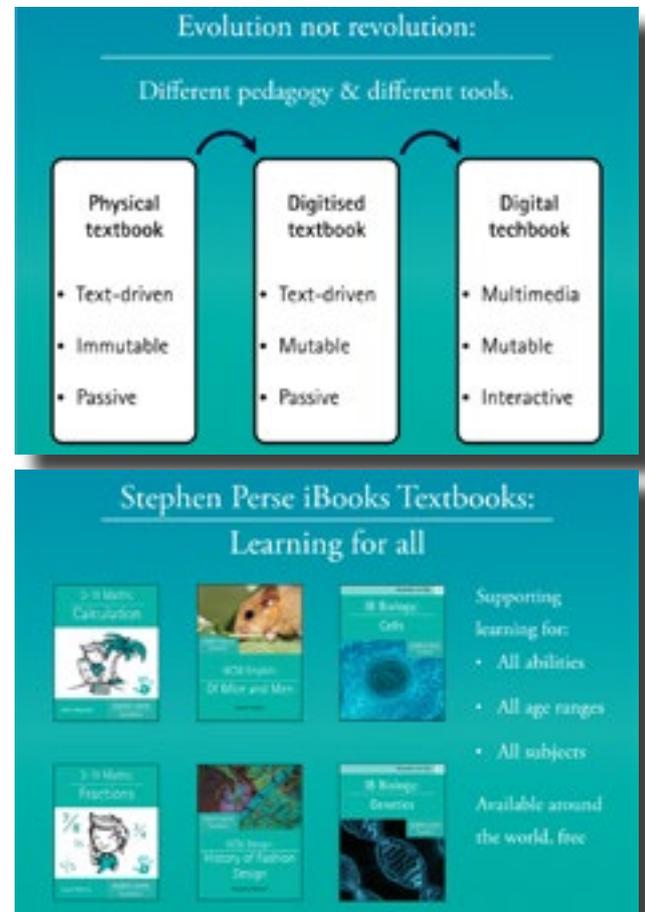
Since that initial offering last year, we have expanded the iBooks Textbooks that we offer for free to include 4 Primary Maths eBooks (which include parent tips), and IGCSE and GCSE titles in Spanish, French and Design, one student-authored iBook Textbook and one title which explains our pedagogy and principles: [Why eBooks?](#) With almost 55,000 downloads in the last year, we are proud that we can help not only our own students, but also learners around the world. It's not only our iBooks that have been popular - we have over 100 free iTunes U courses across all subject areas from the Senior School and 6th Form published too, with over 200,000 visitors internationally.

We are passionate about our responsibilities to the wider world of education and our moral imperative to support learning for students less fortunate than those at the SPF. Access to high quality educational resources is a continuing problem in many parts of the world and it is for this reason that we have made our resources free for all to access around the world. We are building partnerships with British state schools, and indeed schools around the world, to ensure that we maintain this relevant support.

At BETT this year Aisling Brown talked about our iBooks and you can watch a video about this [here](#).

## Finland 100

Finland's education is celebrated around the world for its innovation and student-centred learning. We are flattered that Aisling Brown, as a representative of the Stephen Perse Foundation, was asked to be one of 100 international educators to participate in their hundredth anniversary celebration, [HundrED](#), which includes such illustrious educators as Lord Jim Knight, Chief Education Advisor for the TES. This shows just one of several external recognitions of our love of learning and our determination to continuously build on what came before - to spark a learning evolution rather than revolution.



## *Israeli Ministry of Education visit*

A delegation from Israel's Ministry of Education recently visited the Foundation. The group were particularly keen to hear about how our digital strategy has evolved and the impact this has had on the learning environment.

The Chief Innovation officer Moshe Leiba was very impressed by the iBooks Textbook project and commented: "these iBooks are amongst the best I've seen from any educational establishment".



## *STEAM logo design competition*

Very well done to the huge number of children from Years 3-6 across the Foundation who entered the competition. Both schools shortlisted their entries and submitted ten each to Ben Keeble, Head of Visual Art, and Roger Bett, Head of Design, for consideration.

Congratulations to Lucy Awbery-Maskell whose design is the overall winner. This logo was selected for its design concept and clarity, and its ability to be reproduced across many different platforms. The following pupils were highly commended for their logo designs: Isabel Weston for a great concept and clarity of design, Haruka Nagano for her concept and innovative use of technology, and Hannah Caley for her wonderful concept and use of colour.

Lucy's winning design



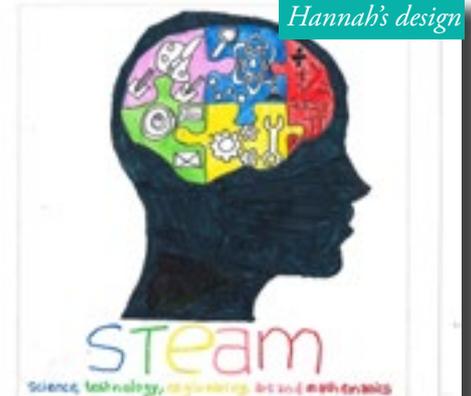
Isabel's design



Haruka's design



Hannah's design



## *E-Safety Week*

During the week of 8th - 11th February, the PSHE sessions and assembly will focus on Internet Safety and digital awareness. Safer Internet Day itself is on the 9th February and so various activities and lessons will be coinciding with how we can all play our part for safer Internet use. For more information about steps parents can take to support their child please visit this [website](#).

## *Pre-prep and technology*

Primary digital resources have really taken off this term with the production of the first set of Primary iBooks. Our Deputy Head of Pre-prep and Year 2 City classteacher Alice Heywood has, since December, published four maths calculation books to support the pupils in school, their parents and home, and teachers across the Foundation. With Aisling Brown's incredible skills in putting the books together, we are pleased to see that these four free books have seen successful downloads and more importantly excellent feedback from current pupils and parents. Many have come forward to say how useful it is to, 'see how it is done in school' and to see it by one of their own teachers, even better.



One Year 2 was heard to say, "That's Mrs Heywood, she is my teacher, that is what she says in school! Is she famous now?" Mrs Heywood has been pleased to see the iBooks being used in classes throughout the Pre-prep and hopes that they will bridge the gap between classroom practice and at home consolidation using consistent methods. More Primary digital resources will be available soon as other teachers throughout the 3-11 age range of the Stephen Perse Foundation publish iBooks this year covering more Maths and English. As the value of these resources continues to be revealed we expect to see many more interactive, engaging iBooks from the Stephen Perse Foundation Pre-prep and Junior staff soon.

Links to the iBooks:

[3-11 Maths: Division by Alice Heywood & Aisling Brown](#)

[3-11 Maths: Addition by Alice Heywood & Aisling Brown](#)

[3-11 Maths: Multiplication by Alice Heywood & Aisling Brown](#)

[3-11 Maths: Subtraction by Alice Heywood & Aisling Brown](#)

## *Juniors and technology*

Year 6 pupils from the Junior School spent Wednesday at Bletchley Park as Top Secret WWII code breakers. In their 'Inception to Intelligence' session, after signing the Official Secrets Act 1911, the girls were given the opportunity to break various Nazi codes and translate them from Morse code into English using the infamous Enigma machine.

The day continued with a guided tour of the grounds where they heard about picnics by the lake, eight hour shifts, freezing cold huts and the many women who broke and analysed codes. They learnt about the three steps to code breaking: interception, dispatch riding and code breaking. Each stage of this code breaking process was carried out in separate locations within the Park to ensure maximum security. Secrecy was paramount and many of the those at Bletchley Park never spoke about their experiences until the Official Secrets Act was lifted in the 1970s.

This latest STEAM experience, and first time expedition for Junior School pupils, proved fascinating and extremely popular with all involved.



Bletchley Park

Mark 2 Colossus computer, 1943

## *Seniors and technology*

Cecily in Year 9 was invited to take part in the finals of the UK Bebras Computational Challenge as a result of being placed in the top 50 students among more than 28,000 who participated in her age category. A quite outstanding achievement! Congratulations to Cecily, our first student to reach the Bebras national finals. Here is Cecily's description of the day:

*"On Sunday 17th January I went to Oxford University's Department of Computer Science to attend the final. In addition, I attended two lectures given by Professor Peter Millican and was given a tour of Hertford College and the surrounding area. Lunch was provided by the College, and the day was well organised. It was interesting to hear about the different courses offered and the ideas that the university students learn about. Peter Millican also talked about his course on Philosophy and Computer Science - an interesting mix!"*



