

# 21st Century Skills in Primary English Language Classrooms

## Tung Koon School (Sheung Shui)

e-Learning and information literacy are two of the major emphases in the updated *English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 - Secondary 6), 2017*. In the course of promoting the use of technology to facilitate learning, teachers have enriched their school-based curriculum with a variety of apps and e-learning opportunities.

Tung Koon School (Sheung Shui) is introducing their students early to a variety of e-learning activities by implementing the KS1 Space Town literacy programme. In the P3 'Cool Kids' unit, students research by reading across the curriculum

and gathering information from the Internet about foreign customs, festivals and foods.

Reflecting on the implementation of the unit, the teachers found that student collaboration and group communication were necessary to complete the multi-tasks assigned. Research from the Internet needed to be moderated by students through exercising their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. According to Fullan (2014) (see diagram below), these are important 21st century skills required for the well-being of society. Teachers were also challenged to change: while once familiar with delivering 'chalk-front' lessons, they now need to assume the role of a facilitator in developing students' information literacy.



Collaborative e-Learning in the classroom

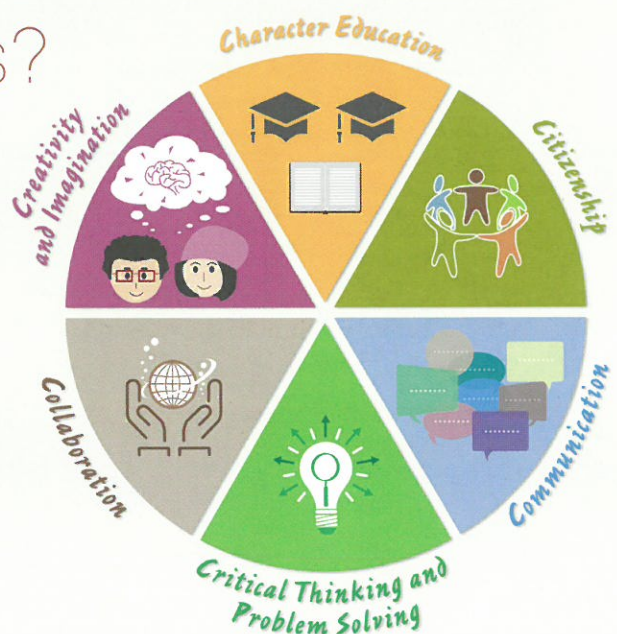
## What Are the 6 Cs?

### The 6 Cs of Education

The 6 Cs of education are key 21st century skills that need to be developed for both student and society well-being (Fullan, 2014).

Research shows that the 6 Cs are equally important and need not be taught sequentially or in order of priority.

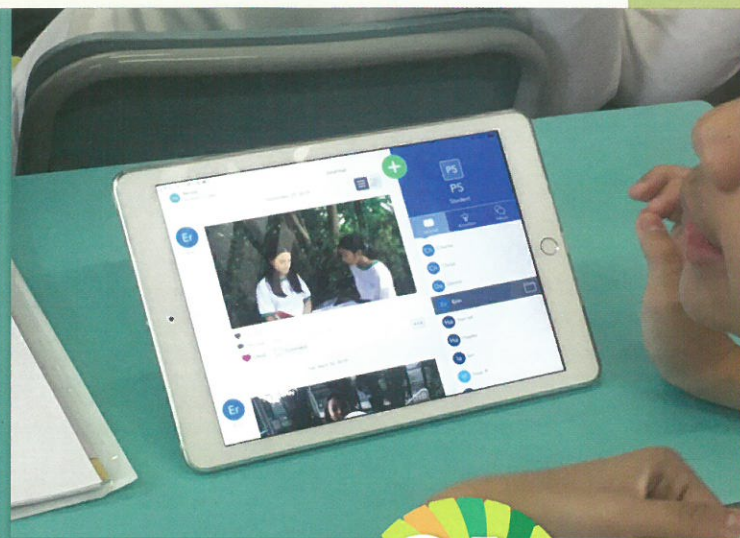
When learners are exposed to engaging learning environments and assigned collaborative tasks, their 6 Cs can develop and thrive.



### Reference

Fullan, M. (2014). The world will be led by people you can count on, including you! in *New Pedagogies for Deep Learning Whitepaper: Education PLUS*. Retrieved on 20 March 2020 from <https://www.michaelfullan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Education-Plus-A-Whitepaper-July-2014-1.pdf>





Students collaboratively making, sharing and commenting on their videos



## Mui Wo School

Another school providing students with rich opportunities to develop 21st century skills through their school-based English language curriculum is Mui Wo School. Here, P6 students demonstrate how effective e-learning tools can enhance their motivation and language acquisition in G.E. classes. By sharing video portfolios with their classmates, KS2 students practise and develop the four language skills, while preparing for their P6 interviews.

During a recent visit, it was observed that the platform used by the NET, Ms Iza, was the app SeeSaw, through which the students had already uploaded their book review videos in the previous lesson. The students were on task from the start when the teacher shared a couple of book reviews using the app and invited them to give comments. Throughout this process, the teacher guided the students to focus on specific areas for comment (e.g. pronunciation, camera techniques, etc). With this model, students then worked in groups of two to three to view classmates' videos and give comments through SeeSaw. Working in different spaces, including the playground, the students were focused throughout

and clearly enjoyed watching their classmates' videos and discussing their comments.

Finally, the teacher brought the class back together to summarise the lesson's learning points, and share the students' comments. This is a fine example of how learning English can be fun and engaging, and at the same time can provide meaningful learning opportunities for students.



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