

Digital Skills Cultivated in an International Secondary School

Location: UNESCO Headquarters, ROOM 6

Date and time: Monday 26 March 2018, 14:30-16:00

Presenters: Steven Wood, and Weiyan Xia, Beijing Royal School, China

About the workshop:

The workshop focuses on how students' digital skills could be or even should be cultivated during secondary school. This workshop will cover 3 digital skills including coding, film making and E-book developing. The skills to be used will be listed below with an overview of what the presentation will look like in the workshop.

1. Coding skills (half an hour):

We will first talk about the Chinese Educational Policies about coding and the development trend in the near future. Research will be done and data will be shown to answer questions such as "In Beijing, how many international high schools have set up Coding Course?"

The value/importance of coding will be discussed and the Coding Course offered by Beijing Royal School will be demonstrated. In this section, what has been done to cultivate students' creativity and coding technical skills at BRS will be explored.

Students Presentation Time: One student uses coding to create an app by himself----

2. short film-making skills

The value/importance of short film will be explored. "A picture is more informative than a word; a movie/flash is more informative than a picture." A program about film making offered cooperatively by Beijing Royal School and a German middle school in summer vacation will be discussed by showing how students' filmmaking skills could be developed via short time period program or project.

Student Presentation Time: One BRS Student presents a 4-minute short film about gender equality.

3. E-book-developing skills

The advantages of e-books will be explored and how to make secondary school students build up an awareness of developing e-books will also be discussed.

Technical skills of making e-books will be summarized and content related advertising skills will be learnt at the same time. Opportunities and platform given by Beijing Royal School will be mentioned such as talented students gathering for an e-book club after class. Students Presentation Time: One student will show their e-book works about gender equality.

The workshop is designed to explore some key digital skills that cultivated during middle school stage, which lays a solid foundation for students' further development. The digital skills acquired during secondary school may strongly influence the career development of a student. In order to develop students' digital skills, what could be done as an international school will be mainly focused in this workshop.

Meet the presenters:

Weiyan Xia, English teacher, homeroom teacher, and vice Director of Language Center in Beijing Royal School, graduated with a BA from Wuhan University of Technology, and attained a Master of Education from North Caroline State University. Within the 16 years being a teacher, especially during the 7 years at Beijing Royal School, she loves to find and learn new methodologies to try in the school with her students. She believes that education should go with the development of the digital age and apply those accessible digital devices and applications to assist the classroom teaching and the acquisition of students.

Steven Wood, Beijing Royal School, China