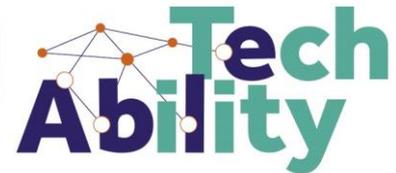# TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30	**Arrival and registration** **Refreshments and opportunity to visit the exhibition**
10:30 – 10:50	**Welcome and introduction to the TechAbility Service** *Fil McIntyre and Neil Beck, Natspec Assistive Technologists*
10:50 – 11:35	Keynote Session – **Inside the Onion, Peeling back the layers of accessible practice** *Alistair McNaught, Jisc*
11:35 – 12:00	**Refreshment break informal networking and opportunity to visit the exhibition**
12:00 – 12:45	Delegates will have the option to choose from 4 break-out sessions please see the details below. 1. Bending Technology to Your Will 2. Make Echo and Google Home work for you 3. Does Your IT Support Your AT? 4. Virtual Reality and Autism - How and Why?
12:45 – 14:00	**Lunch informal networking and opportunity to view the exhibition**
13:15 – 13:55	Karten Network Meeting *Please note: This session is exclusively for Karten Network members.*
14:00 – 14:45	Delegates will have the option to choose from 4 break-out sessions please see the details below. 1. Empowering Potential with Windows 10 and Office 2. Grid 3 for Education 3. All Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology and British Assistive Technology Association 4. Brain in Hand
14:45– 15:30	Delegates will have the option to choose from 4 break-out sessions please see the details below. 1. Access to Learning Materials for People with Visual Impairment 2. iPads and Tablet Access 3. Using Technology in Exams and Assessments 4. Coding for SEND
15:30 – 16:00	Panel discussion - **Current challenges and Opportunities when Implementing Assistive Technology** An exclusive chance to hear about best practice from experts in the sector. Panel members will discuss the importance of leadership and the expectations statutory bodies have for best practice in assistive technology delivery. Opportunities for support and development within FE and the Third Sector will also be explored. The panel will take your questions about the challenges you face when implementing assistive technology. Full detail of the panel members is below.
16:00 – 16:10	Review of the day • Challenges and call to action • Follow-up/ contacts/ future TA events

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Panel Discussion

We are grateful to our panel members for sharing their insights and experience of implementing good practice in Assistive Technology across a wide range of settings.

Maria Chambers Director of Education, Ambitious About Autism

Maria Chambers is the Director of Education at Ambitious about Autism. She worked previously at Scope managing their schools and colleges to ensure a high-quality educational experience for all young people. She is an additional OFSTED Inspector and a Member of the Board of Association of National Specialist Colleges. Maria has a Degree in Management (IIM) and is qualified to PGCE level. She has a postgraduate certificate in Working with People with Significant and Complex Needs. Maria's passion is quality of life and equality for disabled people.

Arwyn Jones Chief Executive, Beacon Centre

Arwyn's role encompasses overseeing the development and delivery of all Beacon's care and support services, stimulating new ideas and innovation as well as creating new partnerships and collaborations that help Beacon provide better services. Arwyn is also Chair of the Karten Network Board. The Karten Network is a network of IT centres for disabled people with the purpose of improving the quality of life and independence of adult people with congenital or acquired physical, cognitive, sensory, learning disabilities or mental health problems. The Karten Centres provide a supportive learning environment together with access to the latest in adaptive computer technology and are located in a wide range of host organisations.

Alistair McNaught Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist, JISC

Alistair's role is to advise organisations on how they can use technology to maximise accessibility. This involves best practice in supporting disabled learners, but it also involves creating better experiences for all learners - and indeed staff. Alistair has a particular interest in helping join together the elements that go to create an accessible learning experience, working with a range of stakeholders from publishers to content creators, teaching staff, library staff, student support and IT teams. Alistair spent 20 years in the classroom as a geography teacher, four years in full time staff development and then 10 years with JISC TechDis prior to his current role.

Rohan Slaughter Network Technologies and Infrastructure Specialist, JISC

Rohan advises educational organisations to ensure network technologies and infrastructure support teaching and learning. Rohan was previously employed at Beaumont College (an independent specialist college) as assistant principal and formerly as the head of technology. Rohan led the development of the integrated 'technology team' at the college which consists of both mainstream IT staff and assistive technologists who work with students and other specialist staff to deploy assistive technology/IT hardware and software solutions. Rohan is also vice-chair of the Karten Network Board. The Karten Network is a network of IT centres for disabled people with the purpose of improving the quality of life and independence of adult people with congenital or acquired physical, cognitive, sensory, learning disabilities or mental health problems.

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Break-out session information

To help you get the most out of the workshops and to ensure there is minimal overlap, we have streamed the sessions into four broad subject areas. *However*, there is no need to follow this, please feel free to choose the sessions which best fit your requirements.

Stream 1: General Further Education

Bending Technology to Your Will!

Neil Beck, Assistive Technologist, TechAbility

This session will feature multiple ways you can quickly make resources and support learners with a variety of tools. You will leave this session with tools to use with your learners and show your colleagues. Bring your own devices, or share ours…
Amongst other things you will learn how to:

- Use an Android phone/tablet to make talking prompts: Shopping lists, lesson plans or activity guidance.
- Use Google Docs and create switch accessible dictation on a laptop
- Use Microsoft Seeing AI to turn your iPhone/iPad into a text scanner.
- Create alarms on an iPhone/iPad using audio descriptors, pictures and text

Empowering Technology

Arran Smith, SEND & Dyslexia Consultant, Microsoft UK

Microsoft's Mission is to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more. With more than 1 billion people in the world with disabilities, there is no limit to what people can achieve when technology reflects the diversity of all those who use it.
Arran Smith will be talking about Assistive Technology which has been brought into mainstream use and enables teachers, students and dyslexic people of all ages to access the inbuilt assistive technology, anytime, anywhere.
Arran will talk about the functionality that has been added into Office 365 and Windows 10 that can help to support its dyslexic users. He will also be looking at how it can support students with dyslexia and SEND and the support they may need.

Access to Learning Materials for People with Visual Impairments

Chris Turner, Technology for Life Coordinator, Royal National Institute of Blind People

Chris will outline the RNIB's Technology for Life Service and talk about the most useful software and systems for those with visual impairments. Expect demonstrations and apps you can easily use with your learners. This will include:

- Information on accessing computers with the most commonly used tools
- Apps and features for your smartphone or tablet
- E-readers
- General support guidance
- How to seek further information

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Stream 2: Specialist Further Education

Make Amazon Echo and Google Home Work for You

Paul Doyle, ACCESS Centre Manager, Hereward College
Fil McIntyre, Lead Assistive Technologist, Beaumont College

Amazon Echo and Google Home are generally used at home for convenience, however they are great tools for accessibility. Paul Doyle and Fil McIntyre will demonstrate the educational and access uses of these technologies and how they can empower people to access music, lights and video. Paul and Fil will also highlight the shortcomings and some practical workarounds for people who may find these devices tricky to use.

Grid 3 for Education

Trevor Mobbs, AT Resources Manager, Tobii Dynavox

Grid 3 for education enables the use of this software as an accessible teaching tool. The accessibility features built into the software ensure that most learners can access resources whether using mouse, whiteboard, touchscreen, switches or eyegaze. Several specialist colleges in the UK use Grid 3 in this manner. Trevor Mobbs from Tobii Dynavox will discuss how the software can be used for multiple users, demonstrate features and show downloadable resources.

iPad and Tablet Accessibility

Treloar College

By design tablets are portable and accessible and are proving to be a great aid to learning, especially outside the traditional classroom. There are many accessible features built into tablet operating systems to access text, overcome physical barriers and visual impairments. [insert name] from Treloar College will demonstrate these features, primarily focussing on iPad (as the most accessible tablet) but also discussing accessibility of Android tablets.

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Stream 3: Leadership and the Wider Context

Does your IT support your AT?
Rohan Slaughter, Subject Specialist, JISC

Effective Assistive Technology relies heavily on IT infrastructure being fit for purpose. As one of JISC's Subject Specialists Rohan advises colleges to ensure that network technologies and infrastructure support teaching and learning. Having previously served as Assistant Principal and Head of Technology at Beaumont College, Rohan has in-depth experience of applying strategic solutions in a real-world context.
Rohan will draw on sector wide experiences around what works, and what does not to ensure your IT can support learners to reach their full potential when using AT. He will also draw on his experience of leading an integrated IT and AT team in an ISC for more than 15 years.

All Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology and British Assistive Technology Association
Robert McLaren, Manager, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology
Myles Pilling, BATA Council Member & Director and Specialist SEND ICT Consultant

Both of these organisations are working to raise the profile of Assistive technology across Britain. Come and hear how they are achieving this and how you can get involved.
The All-Party Parliamentary Group for AT disseminates knowledge and generates debate on assistive technology amongst Members of both Houses of Parliament.
The British Assistive Technology Association campaigns for the rights of those needing AT, provides advice and support to government and educates on the benefits of AT.

Using Technology in Exams and Assessments
Abi James, Research Fellow at University of Southampton and Assistive Technology Consultant.

Abi will discuss ways in which technology can be used to make reasonable adjustments in exams and e-assessments. In her dual roles as Research Fellow at the University of Southampton and chair of the British Dyslexia Association New Technologies Committee, Abi advises organisations on how they can implement the use of technology in exams.   She has a wide experience of the technologies which can be used, but more importantly of what is required to use them effectively and therefore enable learners to increase their independence.

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Stream 4: Supporting Specific Needs

Virtual Reality and Autism – Why and How?

Dr. Nigel Newbutt, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Education and Technology, University of the West of England.

Dr Newbutt will describe his research into how Virtual Reality can benefit young people with Autism. He will also present specific examples of how VR can be applied in an educational setting. Dr Newbutt researches the role that Virtual Reality environments can play to develop communication and social skill opportunities for young people with autism. He has recently completed an EPSRC Fellowship at Michigan State University investigating the acceptance and role of virtual reality technology used by people on the autism spectrum.

Brain in Hand

Sarah K Todd, Development Manager, Brain in Hand.

Schools, colleges and universities are seeing a rise in the number of students disclosing an Autism diagnosis, a mental health difficulty or other additional needs. This upturn in demand is taking place at a time when greater emphasis is being placed on the inclusive practices of the HE institutions and their delivery of adaptations to meet the diverse needs of their students.
Brain in Hand helps staff give students access to support anytime, anywhere; using readily available technology they feel comfortable with – a smart phone. This helps keep their life and studies on track; It also helps staff to spot who needs additional help and plan adaptations or provide early intervention.
In this talk find out about how you can use this with learners along with the features and support is available from Brain in Hand.

Coding for SEND

Simon Barnett, Multimedia Tutor, National Star College

Coding is a useful skill in itself, but in Simon's session you will discover how this also teaches maths concepts, cause and effect, problem solving skills, teamwork and so much more for learners with SEN.
You will leave this session with ideas of platforms to use, how to approach teaching the subject and, importantly, how to differentiate this for different levels.

TechAbility Conference

Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EH

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Karten Network Meeting

Please note: This session is exclusively for Karten Network members.

A chance for delegates who work in Karten Centres get updated on developments in the Karten Network and to interact with other members. Bring your funding and assistive technology questions for your expert panel:

- Dawn Green- Karten Network Development Co-ordinator
- Rohan Slaughter – Vice Chair of the Karten Network Board
- Neil Beck – TechAbility Assistive Technologist
- Fil McIntyre – TechAbility Assistive Technologist.