

## **Deep Learning in a Digital World**

### **Tony Glover Using Technology Effectively**

TONY: Technology enables connections to be made. I was only talking this morning about how technology has changed dramatically, even since, say, 2009. I'm not really a good person, because I'm an old person. I came up at an age when there wasn't this networking capacity. Since 2009, we've had smart phones, we've had digital connections that are growing evermore. And there's the opportunity for young people not only to engage in research digitally, but also to engage in those connections. And I think the connections for a purpose are absolutely key to using digital technology, moving forward.

Technology will help with enabling networks. It's enabled students to communicate with one another beyond the school day. It enables students to access learning beyond the school day. It's enabled students within the school to connect across the school with others. It potentially could enable the students to connect with people in other schools as well. And that's an area that is now being explored. So the technology's there for the students to use within the school, and for them to use outside the normal school day. And the connections are there. Again, I raised this question myself yesterday. I was going around the school. All the students had some form of connectivity, whether it be a phone or an iPad, or something. And they were using that as a research tool. I asked them, how can you be discriminatory of your research? But they were learning the skills of being discerning and discriminatory so that they didn't just Google something and then pick up an answer, and that's it. They were looking at various sources and evaluating them. Therefore, they were using the technology as a means of learning itself through developing this critical approach to what they were seeing through the technology.

Then I saw some students who were connecting with one another in terms of how they were constructing the work, whether just sharing their learning together, or in some cases they were adopting a jigsaw approach, where one student would be doing some aspect of work, another student would be doing another aspect of the same work. And then they'd use the technology to bring that together and to share with one another. So it brings about a connectivity, as well as a research tool. I saw the students doing both of those. The next stage, they say, is to use it as an international medium to connect with students home and abroad, and to connect with other communities.

And that's the area that we're in now. I'm not sure if they realize it yet, but that's one of my next challenges to match that up internationally. I've done a little bit of that with another school over here, and using the technology to connect with teachers, and

learning to share plans, to share strategies. But I think to get the students to do that, I think, is a really powerful way of developing these learning networks.

So I think those are my main areas, really. One, to have a network, and not just for communication, but positively to network in the context of learning. And secondly, to tell them to be discerning over their research, and critical over their research. You want young people to be critical thinkers and critical learners. And the technology will enable them to do that.