



# Gosforth Academy JUNIOR HIGH

Using Frog to save money and  
enhance teaching and learning



Frog has evolved a great deal over the past couple of years, but for existing Frog users, knowing how to make the most out of these new changes can feel like a bit of a leap. Peter Johnson, Leader of Teaching and Learning for Computing at **Gosforth Junior High Academy**, a middle school for children aged 9-13, talks to us about how he's been able to capitalise on using Frog to save his school money, and enhance teaching and learning.

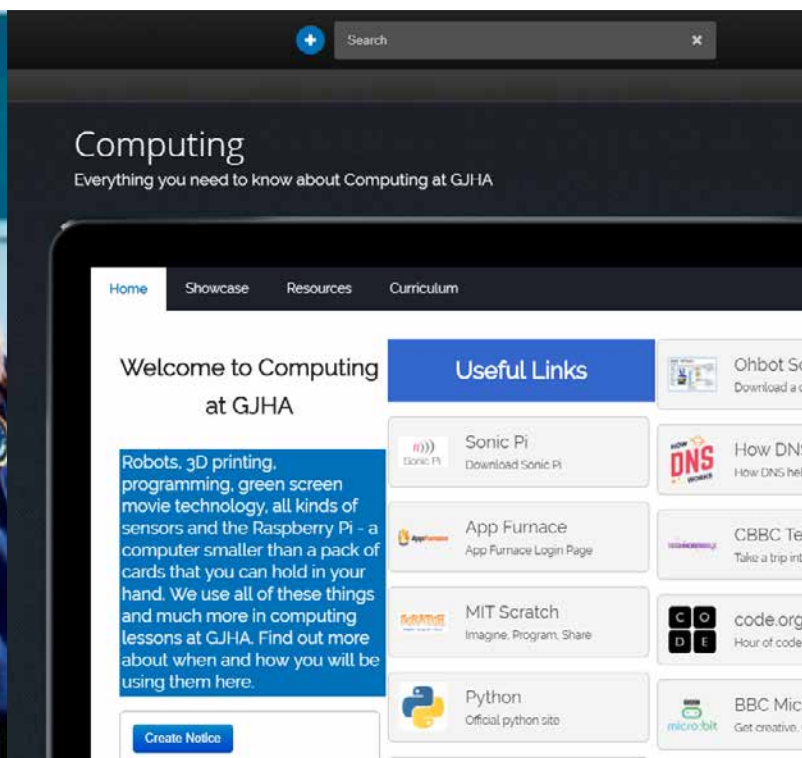
# How it all began...

*"I decided that it was time to reinvent Frog for our school."*

**Peter Johnson**  
Leader of Teaching and Learning

"We'd been using Frog 3 for a number of years, but I didn't feel we were making the most of it in our school," explains Peter. "But then I saw the Frog team at Bett last year, and so much seemed to have changed that I decided that it was time to reinvent Frog for our school."

Gosforth Junior then decided to implement Frog Learn, hoping to find a way to help build a platform to boost parental engagement, and streamline other school processes. "We built a school dashboard for the parents to quickly and easily find out information about school updates; newsletters, parents evenings, information about trips etc. It was effectively a digital communication platform that helped reduce the need for sending letters out and better improve home-school relations."



Implementation of such a big change for the school was something Frog wanted to support Gosforth in, to ensure they were able to get the most out of the platform. "I had a massive amount of support from Frog. Graham from Frog helped us with the initial implementation of the Frog Learn platform and helped us to get it all together, But just in terms of usability and friendliness it's changed so much since Frog 3 that we're able to get so much more out of it."

It's not just about supporting the parents, though. Peter was able to use Frog to implement a pupil rewards system that both boosted engagement and reduced school costs: "The parent dashboard is great, but by far the biggest thing for us as a school has been something we created with the student dashboard," explains Peter. "We've created digital badges for students, which replaced the paper certificates we were giving out to celebrate pupil achievements. Previously, pupils would collect stamps in lessons and when they reached a certain number of stamps they'd get a certificate. It was a lovely thing to do, but it would cost us thousands of pounds for these certificates, and they'd rarely make it home and simply weren't appreciated enough. I think we were paying £80 for 500 certificates; it wasn't cheap and we have nearly 700 pupils in the school. We were giving out 5 - 6 certificates per pupil so when you add it up it really was running into the thousands."



## My School Dashboard



## Links



### News and Events

Latest events and weekly newsletter



### e.safety portal

Safeguarding your digital activity



## Noticeboards

Select the noticeboard you would like to view...

Whole School

KS2

KS3

"We built a school dashboard - It was effectively a digital communication platform that helped reduce the need for sending letters out and better improve home-school relations."

Peter Johnson  
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"So we designed a digital badge system on Frog where they rewarded those and that's been probably the biggest success so far. We gamified it, so the students could see the badge they needed to earn greyed out before they could achieve it. That way they knew what they were aiming for and gave them goals to work towards throughout the year. The students are so much more engaged with the process, and the parents are able to see their child's achievements on the parent dashboard, too. Plus it's got every member of staff having to engage with the platform."

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Ensuring staff engagement with the platform is critical to its success. "The staff recognise how this is only going to become something they grow to rely on more and more. We already use it for staff bulletins - previously these were done on paper which wasn't cost efficient. It's really useful for things like letters home to parents too; so many letters just get scrunched up in the bottom of bags and never even make it home. For things like risk assessment on a visit, we can put a letter out 3-4 months before the actual visit, because it can take so long for us to get the response slips back. With Frog it's so much quicker; parents just log onto their Frog dashboard and can find all the letters they need to see and can reply right then and there. It's a much quicker turnaround - and more reliable than student couriers!"



Students

Parents

Staff

**e.safety portal**  
Safeguarding your digital activity

We take your e-safety very seriously here at school. We need all users of online resources, provided by the school or otherwise, to stay safe at all times.

#### Resources for Students

 <b>WhatsApp Advice</b> Advice on WhatsApp settings	 <b>CEOP</b> CEOP Internet Safety
 <b>Think you Know</b> E-Safety advice for students	 <b>Facebook Advice</b> Advice on Facebook settings
 <b>Facebook</b> Facebook for CEOP	 <b>Instagram Advice</b> Advice on Instagram settings

frog

