

Martin is a full-time classroom teacher with an interest in creative learning and multiliteracies. He believes in learning through doing and advocates this approach through research and practice. Martin has shared his approaches and research findings at a range of events and conferences around the world. He has also authored book chapters about the use of social media and digital technologies in the classroom.



Martin is “first and foremost a classroom teacher” who has worked with classes from the early years to upper primary level. He currently works in a large primary school in the North East of England and is part of the school’s Senior Leadership and Management Team with the specific role as strategic Curriculum Leader for E-Learning and Computing as well as being the Key Stage 2 Phase Leader.

During his time in the classroom, he has developed a range of context-driven projects with classes and has been fortunate to be able to share these projects with colleagues across the globe. Martin believes that the education system should equip young people with the skills necessary to successfully participate in today’s society.

He spent five years teaching Key Stage 1 (Year 2), developing playful pedagogies and early literacy skills with new technologies. His work in this area was characterised through the deployment of social media in the classroom through Twitter and the @ClassroomTweets project. His Year 2 class was the first class in the world to use Twitter as a learning tool and this work has been reported and emulated within the global educational community, as well as being featured in the national and international press. He has also published widely in the field of social media in education and has recently completed his fourth academic book chapter focused on the area of online safety for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Martin currently teaches in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) where he has developed whole-school approaches to blogging to engage children with writing and popular culture through work with NASA Astronauts and Everest Explorers. In 2014 he became involved in the “Tesco Eat Happy Project Online Field Trips” where he acted as a consultant for Tesco Plc and other professionals at the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA), advising on positive ways to engage with education and improving children’s learning experiences. He also acted as a consultant for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on their school-based television drama “Waterloo Road.”

Martin has presented his research findings and classroom projects to a range of audiences and sectors across the globe. He has presented at multiple international conferences for the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) and was a core participant in the ESRC Seminar Series “Children’s and young people’s digital literacies in virtual online spaces.” In September 2011, he was invited by the University of Tasmania in Australia to present a conference keynote about social media in education. He has also presented information to the police and social services in the UK about maximising the potential for interactions online with digital technologies. In September 2014, Martin was invited by the European Educational Publishers Group (EEPG) and Zvaigzne ABC Publishing House to be a keynote speaker at their “Better Tools, Better Learning” conference in Riga, Latvia.

A full list of Martin’s speaking engagements and published work is included overleaf. He is available to speak at conferences and undertake consultancy work. As he works as a full-time classroom teacher, his school governors insist that all costs are covered. This includes:

- All travel expenses;
- All accommodation costs;
- A “supply” fee which allows the school to hire a teacher to cover his class – this is currently charged at £200 per day that Martin is away from school (may include travel time).

Further information can be obtained via email: [martinwaller@me.com](mailto:martinwaller@me.com)

## TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

- September 2007-  
Present **Classroom Teacher**  
***Holy Trinity Rosehill C.E. (VA) Primary School, Stockton, UK***  
I have worked as a full-time classroom teacher in a range of year groups across the primary phase which includes Year 2 (2007-2012), Year 5 (2012-2015) and Year 6 (2015-present). Between the years of 2008 and 2013 I also coordinated Creative Learning from Nursery to Year 6.
- September 2014-  
Present **Senior Leader and Manager (E-Learning Remit)**  
***Holy Trinity Rosehill C.E. (VA) Primary School, Stockton, UK***  
I was appointed to the school's Senior Leadership and Management Team in September 2014 with a specific remit of strategic management of E-Learning and Computing. This led to the development of our unique online learning system called htrschoo.net which is a seamless blend of WordPress (blogs) and Google Apps for Education services. In September 2015 I also became the Key Stage 2 Phase Leader

## KEYNOTES

- December 2014 **Back to School – How can brands best support teachers in the classroom? For British Interactive Media Association and Tesco PLC, London, UK**  
***Keynote Speaker – Engaging with Education***  
I was invited by British Interactive Media Association (BIMA) to speak alongside directors of Tesco PLC and Zone Limited about engaging with education. My message was clear – think about your motivation in wanting to engage with schools. Teachers do great things and they want what is best for the children in their school. I was honoured to be able to represent the teaching profession at this session and to act as an advocate for teachers everywhere.  
Press write-up: <https://www.thisiszone.com/blog/hands-wants-help-classroom-2/>
- September 2014 **Better Tools, Better Learning II Conference, Goethe-Institut Riga, Latvia**  
***Keynote Speaker - Subject to Change: Social Media, Education and Contentious Literacies***  
I was invited by the EEPG (European Educational Publishers Group) to speak at their international conference at the Goethe-Institut in Riga, Latvia. The conference was organised and hosted by Zvaigzne ABC Publishing House. I talked about the current position of literacy in our society and how this had instigated deep changes in what it means to be literate in our society. I also talked about the concept of habitual learning in the communicative landscape. I then shared my own research and case studies about classroom application of theories of multiliteracies and multimodality.  
View the SlideShare here: <http://beyondnewhorizons.com/2014/09/eepg-better-learning-latvia/>
- April 2014 **Managing the Safe Use of Social Media and Online Gaming Conference – Capita Conferences, Manchester, UK**  
***Keynote Speaker – “Maximising the Potential for Interactions Online”***  
This presentation focused on the role of the school in the safe use of social media in society. I also shared practical examples of how I have used social media and technologies to promote a new literacies approach to learning, while taking account of e-safety principles to maximise opportunities for online learning.  
View the SlideShare here: <http://changinghorizons.net/2014/04/capita-conference/>
- September 2011 **New Literacies, Digital Media and Classroom Teaching Conference, University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia**  
***Keynote Speaker***  
In September 2011 the University of Tasmania paid for me to travel to Australia to be a keynote speaker at their **New Literacies, Digital Media and Classroom Teaching** conference. This also included speaking on the national news about social media in

education. My keynote presentation and work is now being used as a focus for a unit of work based on Multiliteracies pedagogy at the university.

May 2010

**ESRC Seminar Series: Children's and young people's digital literacies in virtual online spaces – University of Sheffield, UK.**

***Core Participant and Keynote Speaker***

I was a core participant of this ESRC funded seminar series and also presented findings of my on-going classroom research at one of the seminars in Sheffield. I will also be authoring a chapter for the edited publication that accompanies the series.

My presentation is available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/MultiMartin/a-fixed-point-in-time-and-pedagogy-bringing-the-new-into-the-primary-classroom>

**OTHER CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

March 2013

**UK Literacy Association National Conference (Manchester)**

***Presenter***

Shared a range of projects that I have developed with my Year 2 and Year 5 classes about embedding technology into our connected classroom.

July 2011

**UK Literacy Association International Conference 2011 (Chester)**

***Presenter and Symposium (SiG) Panel***

Shared my project 'Skyping with the Wren's Nest: Multiliteracies Across the Atlantic' where my Year 2 class took part in an extended collaborative project with a museum in Atlanta, USA. Also presented about the use of social media and Twitter in the primary classroom.

October 2010

**Growing Greener Futures Conference (Holy Trinity Rosehill Primary School)  
Conference Organiser and Workshop Leader**

I organised and managed the Growing Greener Futures conference, which was funded by CCE and ran at Holy Trinity Rosehill in October 2010. I used my network of contacts to secure outstanding speakers from across the UK to speak at the event. Delegates travelled from across the UK to attend the event and excellent feedback was received.

June 2010 &  
June 2011

**Northern Grid Conference (Newcastle)**

***Workshop Leader***

Led workshop sessions for over 100 teachers across the UK with a focus on extended and context driven literacy projects in the primary classroom.

July 2009

**UK Literacy Association International Conference 2009 (Greenwich)**

***Symposium Panel Member***

Spoke as part of a symposium panel about teachers and children shaping digital worlds.

July 2009

**Stockton Local Authority – Creativity Showcase Evening**

***Keynote Speaker***

Spoke about the application of multiliteracies in my classroom at a local authority and school event.

February 2009

**Stockton Local Authority – Apple Creativity Project**

***Presenter***

Led a full training day for Stockton Local Authority based on the changing nature of literacy. This included concepts of multiliteracies, critical literacy and creative learning as well as application into the classroom.

July 2008

**UK Literacy Association International Conference 2008 (Liverpool)**

***Presenter***

Presented the findings from my undergraduate dissertation study based on multiliteracies and writing at UKLA International Conference in Liverpool.

June 2008

**NATE/Durham University**

***Presenter***

Presented findings from research study as well as ways I have embedded new literacy practices into my classroom at a professional INSET.

## **LECTURING**

January 2008

**Durham University**

January 2009

***Guest Lecturer***

February 2009

Lectured at Durham University about the field of ICT and literacy and in particular the application of new literacies in classroom.

January 2010 -  
present

**Birmingham City University**

***Guest Lecturer***

Lectured at Birmingham City University to second year students about the changing nature of literacy and how this can impact on practice in schools. This included sharing projects that I have developed with my class during my time at Holy Trinity Rosehill.

## **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

September 2014-  
Present

**Governor**

***Holy Trinity Rosehill C.E. (VA) Primary School, Stockton, UK***

I am a member of my current school's governing body.

May 2014

**Script Advisor**

***BBC/Headstrong Pictures***

Acted as a script advisor for school-based TV drama "Waterloo Road."

July 2010 – Present

**Google Certified Teacher**

***Google Teacher Academy - London***

In July 2010 I was selected as one of only fifty educators from across the globe to attend the first international Google Teacher Academy. This involved travelling to Google's Headquarters in London and taking part in workshop sessions to develop advanced skills with Google Apps for Education, which can be used to support learning across the curriculum.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Using Twitter in the Primary Classroom**

***English 4-11 Journal***

As part of focusing on the development of traditional writing and new literacies I wrote about how I have used the social networking system Twitter as a means of engaging children in evaluating and reflecting on their own learning. I wrote about how the use of Twitter has developed a greater understanding of real-world literacy and helped to further develop digital literacy skills with an online community of practice.

**'Everyone in the world can see it' – Developing Pupil Voice through online social networks**

***The Student Voice Handbook, published by Emerald***

This book chapter is part of an edited book that explores concepts of pupil voice across all stages of education. I was asked to write a chapter about the way I have used online social networks to engage primary-aged children in the writing process as a means of developing their own voice. This publication includes contributions from high profile educationalists and was first published in September 2011.

**More than Tweets: Developing the 'new' and 'old' through online social networks**

***Children's and young people's digital literacies in virtual online spaces, published by Routledge***

*Edited by G. Merchant, J. Gillen, J. Marsh and J. Davies*

This chapter follows on from my work with the ESRC seminar series and will explore the ways in which the use of Twitter in my classroom has supported the development of traditional and 'new' literacy practices as a means of improving learning.

**Subject to Change: Social Media, Education and Contentious Literacies [In Press]**

***English Teaching and New Literacies Pedagogy, to be published by Peter Lang***

*Edited by L. Unsworth and A. Thomas*

This chapter draws upon work I presented during my keynote presentation at the University of Tasmania in September 2011. In addition it also reports new data from my MA thesis which explored the use of blogging as a new literacy practice in the primary classroom.

**The role of schools in children's safety online**

***Online risk to children: Impact, Protection and Prevention, published by Wiley-Blackwell for the NSPCC [in-press]***

I have recently completed a book chapter for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) about the role of schools in children's use of internet technologies.

**TESTIMONIALS**

*"Martin's comments reflect a convergence of all the qualities and attitudes central to how an exemplary teacher might think about using any new media text in the classroom – finding ways to integrate it naturally into a critical literacy program where texts are analysed, produced, challenged, and discussed from alternative perspectives"*

**Dr Angela Thomas – University of Sydney (Knobel and Lankshear, 2010: p181)**

*"Thank you for all that you do for education and our young people. The future is bright!"*

**Barbara Radding Morgan (NASA Educator Astronaut)**

*"Martin Waller was brilliant – so many examples of excellent classroom practice – WOW!"*

**Alayne Ozturk (President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association)**

(Feedback from UKLA Digital Literacies Conference)

*"Sitting alongside Greg Sage, community director at Tesco, we shared some insights from our work on the retailer's Eat Happy Project. But the undoubted star of the show was Martin Waller, a primary school teacher from the north-east, who shared his experiences as a classroom teacher and as the technology lead for his school in County Durham."*

**Jon Davie – Managing Director of Zone Ltd**

Further information can be found at [martinwaller.me](http://martinwaller.me) and on my blog at:

[beyondnewhorizons.com](http://beyondnewhorizons.com)