

Tech Control Get Social

KS4 & KS5 (4th – 6th form)

Lesson Plan Overview

Created by Digital Awareness UK in partnership with HMC, 'Tech Control – Get Social' is the third and final lesson plan in a three-part series of new classroom resources created to help promote the healthy and positive use of technology.

The Tech Control resources encourage students to come up with practical solutions to help ensure technology has a productive influence on their overall health and wellbeing. This is achieved through the promotion of digital resilience, critical thinking and digital awareness.

Outcomes

- Students will understand how the way they use technology in public can sometimes offend or isolate others
- See how technology can have a positive or negative impact on the relationships they have with others and the development of their communication skills
- Understand how technology can be used mindfully in a social situation

Materials

Appendix 1) I Forgot My Phone video
Appendix 2) Room 101 worksheet

Lesson breakdown | 55mins

Part 1 | Video

An awareness video highlighting how technology can be a barrier to effective communication



5 minutes

Aim

This lesson plan explores the ways in which technology can hamper or enhance our communication skills by encouraging students to be mindful about the respectful use of technology when in the presence of others.

Part 2 | Debate

Encourage students to debate whether technology is enhancing or stifling our social skills



15 minutes

Part 3 | Activity

Students to play a gameshow to demonstrate each other's pet peeves when it comes to the use of technology in social situations



20 minutes

Part 4 | Plenary

Summary of learnings from the entire Tech Control series



15 minutes

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Part 1 | 5 minute video

Start the lesson by playing the 'I Forgot My Phone' YouTube video (see appendix 1), which features a young girl who leaves her phone at home by accident one day and then witnesses first-hand how technology can have a negative impact on the ways in which we communicate with others.

Research conducted by HMC and Digital Awareness UK in 2017 found that 38% of students ask their parents to stop checking their mobile devices and 46% said it makes no difference when they ask their parents to do so. Mention this finding to students and question how it makes them feel when friends, family or anyone else is paying more attention to their mobile devices than them when in a social situation.



Part 2 | 15 minute debate

Encourage students to debate whether technology and social media in particular is making people social, or anti-social. Maybe it's a bit of both? Give examples of how it makes us more social eg. Through the use of Skype we are able to easily communicate with people on the other side of the world. As well as examples of how it can make us anti-social eg. It's common to now see groups of people in restaurants not speaking to one another because they're looking at their mobile devices.

Give students five minutes to discuss this amongst themselves and form their arguments before starting the debate.



Part 3 | 20 minute activity

Remind students of some of the scenes where netiquette is addressed in the Tech Control video (photographed below).



Hand out the 'Room 101' template for each student to fill out, which is located in appendix 2.

The teacher will act as the presenter. As seen on the BBC1 television show, three contestants (or students) will be selected and asked to sit at the front of the class and each student will discuss their biggest pet peeve when it comes to the use of technology in social situations. Contestants will be challenged to persuade classmates to decide, which pet peeve is most irritating and therefore most deserving of being consigned to 'Room 101' and going into oblivion (or in this case, in the classroom bin)!



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Give students the below examples to get some ideas flowing:

- Using technology in an environment where people are supposed to be quite like the cinema or a library
- Using technology during meal times or in social situations
- Stopping someone mid-conversation to use technology
- Speaking loudly or playing music/videos loudly in public places like on the bus
- Using technology to share bad news eg. Breaking up with someone via Snapchat



Part 4 | 15 minute plenary

This is an opportunity to discuss everything covered in the Tech Control lesson plan series. Ask students if they have changed any habits off the back of the series or what advice they will use moving forwards.

Recap on learnings from 'Tech Control – Live Your Life':

- ✓ Students should know what the signs of addictive behaviour are and whether they are using technology in a healthy or unhealthy manner
- ✓ Students should know how technology can sometimes be created to drive addiction as well as enhance our lives
- ✓ Students should know what steps to take to ensure they can effectively manage and enjoy their technology

Recap on learnings from 'Tech Control – Be Productive':

- ✓ Students should understand the role technology plays in how productive they are when sleeping and studying
- ✓ Students should be aware of the harmful impact technology can have on their health and wellbeing when used irresponsibly as well as the benefits it can bring when used responsibly
- ✓ Students should be able to advise others on how to create a productive environment for sleeping and studying

Recap on learnings from 'Tech Control – Get Social':

- ✓ Students should be aware of the ways in which technology can be harmful in social situations
- ✓ Students should understand how technology can be a positive influence on our communication skills
- ✓ Students should know what is considered to be appropriate and inappropriate when using technology in a social environment

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