

Digital resources case study: Waiki Cheng

GIVING TRAINEE TEACHERS CONFIDENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Challenging misconceptions

Waiki Cheng is a PGCE student with a chemistry specialism. She teaches chemistry up to A level as well as biology, chemistry and physics up to GCSE.

As a trainee teacher, Waiki discovered STEM Learning during a university tutorial which introduced different technologies that are useful in classroom teaching. She is a regular user and has used several resources in lessons during her training year.

“I use the site in three different ways – for lesson teaching, for resources to provide the students to do on their own, and for my own CPD and training.”

“For example, recently I was teaching light wavelengths, and discovering how the students think they could actually see things. A lot of them have the misconception that they are beaming out light from their eyes, and therefore they can see the object. There is a resource to explore misconceptions, they pick out the answers and you can challenge the misconception. It helps me interact with the students in a different way.”

“I also use some of the older resources that you can't find anywhere else as they aren't published any more. It is so helpful that they are digitised. One in particular, for A level chemistry, provides really good independent learning for my students.”



Learning on the job

Waiki's use of digital resources introduced her to STEM Learning CPD opportunities. She has registered for a course to help her teach computing as she wants to include coding in some of her teaching practice.

“Science is almost like a cross curriculum subject. The students do computing and science together. But that's not my background.

I signed up to a CPD course via the website which I will complete virtually. It is giving me confidence to tackle the subject with my students.”