**Professional Development Learning Approaches**

In choosing your professional development path, you should take the following points into consideration:

* Identify your personal professional development goals and create a plan to assist you in achieving those goals.
* The internet is the best starting point in terms of researching which option will be most suitable to you. It will assist you in learning about the various ICT resources available that can be used to increase your knowledge of subjects taught as well as pedagogy.
* Make sure you verify the quality and credibility of the the course/resource/programme you have identified. Ask these questions as a starting point:
	+ Whose website/course/resource/programme is this?
	+ Why have they made it available?
	+ Is the information actual, relevant and appropriate to me?
	+ Is this the best option or my only option?
* Make sure you are aware of cost factors involved in the approach you have chosen and are confident you have the required ICT skills to complete it. If not, draw on peers and support staff that can assist you in the process.
* Be realistic about what you can achieve. Start with simple tasks and work up from there.
* Stick to the plan you have created.
* Make sure you set aside sufficient time to complete the planned professional development. Never underestimate the time it requires as more often than not it will take longer than you anticipated.
* Remember to persevere, even if you don’t have success in achieving your goals initially!

Examples of Formal Learning Approaches:

* ECDL/ICDL for Teachers. <http://www.ecdl.org>
* EPICT (European Pedagogical ICT License). <http://www.epict.co.uk/certificates>
* ACE (Advanced Certificate in Education) Offered throughout a number of Institutions.
* University of Cambridge- Professional development Courses: <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/career-and-professional-development/81-education-and-teaching>

Examples of Non-Formal Learning Approaches:

* Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Skills for Teachers. <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/scenarios/index.htm>
* Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT Integration: One Step Further. <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/onestep/index.htm>
* Microsoft Partners in Learning: Peer Coaching. <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/peercoach/index.htm>
* Microsoft Partners in Learning: Student Technical Support Solutions (Help Desk). <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/helpdesk/index.htm>
* Microsoft Partners in Learning: ICT integration – WebQuests. <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/themes/index.htm>
* Microsoft Partners in Learning: Digital Literacy Curriculum <http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/citizenship/giving/programs/up/digitalliteracy/default.mspx>
* Microsoft Institute: e-Collaboration Module: <http://www.cpd21.com/>
* Intel Teach® Elements: Collaboration in the Digital Classroom. <http://www.intel.com/education/video/collaborate/content.htm>
* Intel Teach® Elements: Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms. <http://www.intel.com/education/video/assess/content.htm>
* Intel Teach® Elements: Project- Based Approaches <http://www.intel.com/education/video/pbl/content.htm>
* Adobe Youth Voices Essentials. <http://essentials.youthvoices.adobe.com/curriculum.aspx>
* Partners in Learning Network: <http://www.partnersinlearningnetwork.com>
* Innovative Teacher Toolkit: <http://www.innovativeteachertoolkit.com/>
* Intel Thinking Tools: <http://www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/education/k12/tools.htm>
* Intel Digital Literacy Resources: <http://www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/education/k12/digital_literacy.htm>
* Microsoft Pre-Service Teacher Toolkit: teaching with Technology. [www.ps-toolkit.com](http://www.ps-toolkit.com)