



## a new role for the website

Tide~ Trustee's have agreed we should work on plans for the website: [www.tidegloballearning.net](http://www.tidegloballearning.net) [link] to take a more 'centre stage' role to help regenerate the Tide~ idea and approach.

**The first stage** [Level A] is about making existing ideas and publications more accessible in an archive. There is ongoing work to do but the initial work is nearly complete. Many publications are now available to review on line or download.

**So now we are seeking Level B contributions** to enhance that archive, reflect on experiences and consider ideas and approaches in the context of current challenges in 2020. [See page 2]

Consultation to date made it clear that as part of this process we need to **clarify the nature of the Tide~ idea and approach ...** and focus our priorities for new initiatives in that context. [see page 3]

# A

**Level A. A quality archive ...** featuring a good selection of DEC/Tide~ publications that can be down-loaded and offering some commentary on the publications and the processes involved in producing them.

# B

**Level B. A quality archive with added value.** With new content generated by activities, articles etc that interact with the archive material. This could for example involve people reflecting on their experiences and/or ideas, or the generation of new resource stimulated by those ideas.

# C

**Level C. A quality archive with added value at the heart of new Tide~ networking ... and creative projects.** The website takes a role centre stage to maintain and develop the Tide~ idea and approach through new networking on line and at key events.

It may be useful to also think about a Level D ... to use the website as basis for re-establishing the Tide~ organisation, for example with new staff. At this stage this is a distant aspiration but it is important that any plans avoid reducing such long-term options.

For example in the interest of future options it would be important to maintain something of a Birmingham and West Midlands focus while making the most of the wider networking of the Internet.

**B** At Level B we are seeking contributions from people that have been involved in the Tide~ network to enhance the archive by, for example, reflecting on their experiences in the context of the contemporary challenges of 2020.

We are working on a variety of proposals to test out this idea, for example, focusing on particular publications or using themes such as: Climate Change.

We are proposing short sharp visual articles that are easy to read on line and that might stimulate others to respond and share their ideas and experiences. We will also welcome suggestions for more substantial pieces.

To give this proposal coherence and allow it to evolve to engage more people we are thinking of an online Tide~ Magazine perhaps reusing the title: '**Forward Thinking**'.

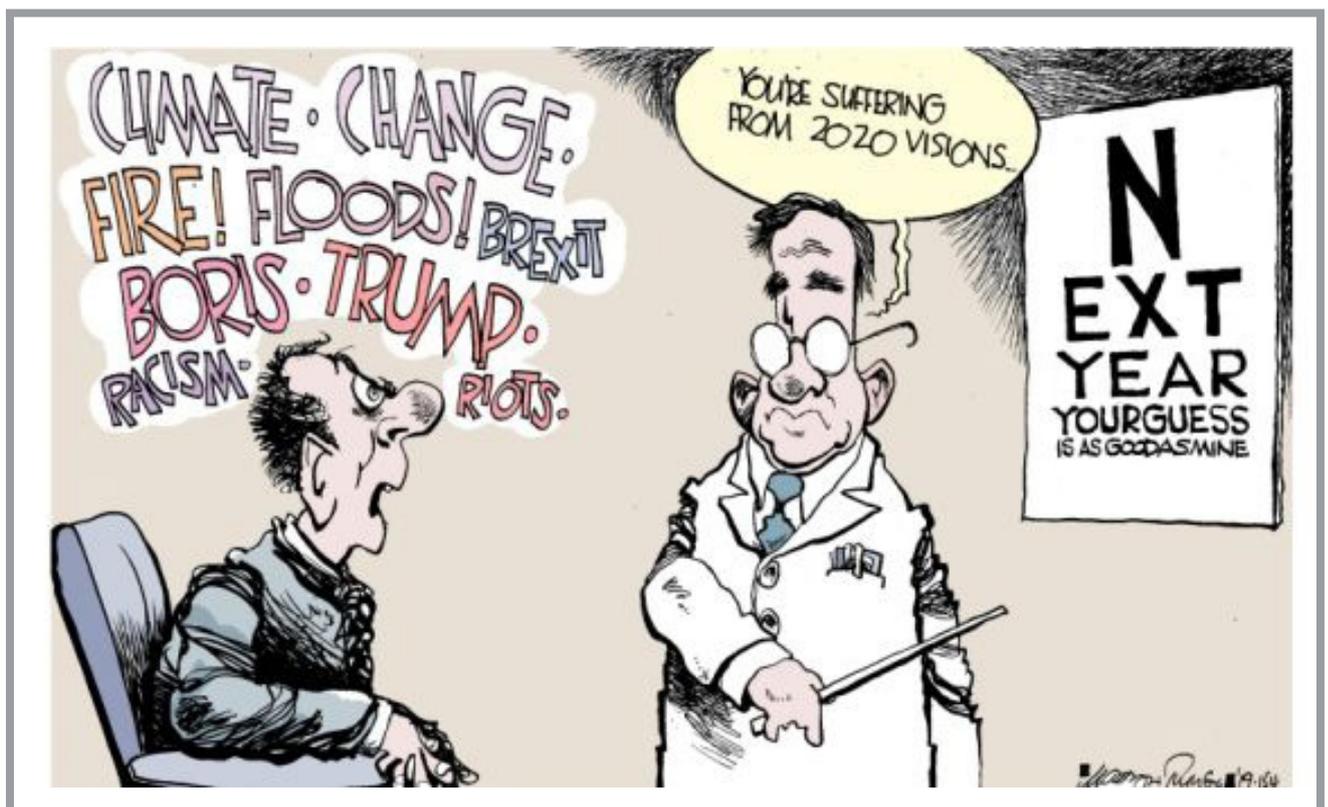
This built on the Birmingham motto: 'Forward'. It was the focus for a wide range network activity. See: [Forward Thinking \[link\]](#).

2020 started, as the Martyn Turner cartoon suggests, with much to be concerned about. What are the challenges for young learners growing up in this context? Covid-19 also brings new perspectives. **There is a need for fresh thinking about global learning.**

## Writing for new online Tide~ Magazine ...

### Checklist:

- 500 - 750 words
- 50% visual - photos, cartoons, book covers, charts, boxes, etc
- web links to Tide publications / other articles
- web links to back up article - sources / ideas
- something brief about you and your Tide~ involvement
- if you do not have direct email please contact us via Tide Web Contact: [\[link\]](#)



... and that was before we knew much about Covid-19

# C

At Level C we propose using the website to stimulate new Tide~ networking ... and creative work. By doing this we seek to revitalise and sustain the Tide~ idea and approach through new school hosted initiatives, on line dialogue and some key events.

To do this we need clarity about how we see the Tide~ idea and approach.

## ***What is the essence of Tide?***

*What needs to be at the heart of any new web centred strategy designed to give the Tide~ idea a new lease of life?*

*Tide~ [and before that Birmingham DEC] has been different things to different people. Strategically the core notion since the outset in 1975 has been about teachers and other education practitioners coming together to engage with 'global issues' ... and the needs of learners in that context.*

*The primary driver has been about the professional role of teachers and quality of learning. About offering 'space' for the collective thinking of groups within a network to engage with issue and ideas both in terms of their own learning and to provide opportunities for group creativity to develop practical teaching strategies and stimulus to engage learners.*

*Some would see Tide~ as an organisation campaigning on issues. That is not surprising given the range of issues that have been on the agenda. Others, especially more recently, saw Tide~ as a 'service provider' that offers inservice training to teachers. This was emphasised by funding that saw the world that way, particularly the DfID support that evolved from being a partnership to a form of central management.*

*Clearly inservice opportunities were vital to all Tide~ work and more conventional courses were an effective tool for sharing ideas and material developed by creative groups. Indeed the experience offered to teachers to lead such courses was in itself seen as a professional development opportunity. The most dynamic professional development on offer centred on teacher groups working creatively on developing and trailing learning ideas and materials using an "action research light" type model. This approach still has much scope that could be used.*

*That model was also used to bring to bring together other groups to respond to key questions for example about the future of geography [Geo Visions]; the nature of citizenship education [West Midlands Commission]; responding to sustainability [WM Coalition Sustainable Development Liaison Group - which has evolved into the group Ben Ballin now chairs].*

*There is more to explore about the essence of Tide~ but the question is:*

***What is the priority for strategy and key activities in our new situation?***

Consultation to date suggests that we should ...

**... re-emphasise Tide's role in enabling 'space' for teachers and other education practitioners to come together, to engage with 'global issues' ... and to work creatively on the needs of learners.**