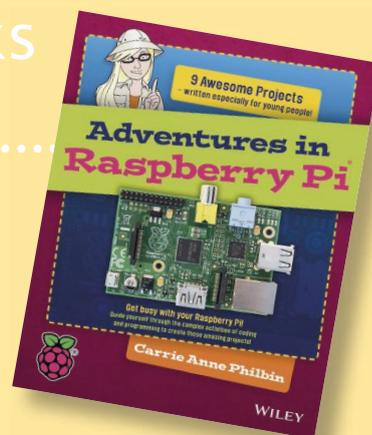# Technology books

The introduction and uptake of Engineering Science in Scottish schools has sent Technical Education teachers scrambling back to their bookshelves for information and refreshers on electronics, processing and platforms.

With the reasonable prices of open source platform kits, more and more departments are better able to equip their classes with various components and connectors. What is perhaps missing is the teacher confidence in successfullyusing them. Here we consider two different popular titles that may help in your classroom.
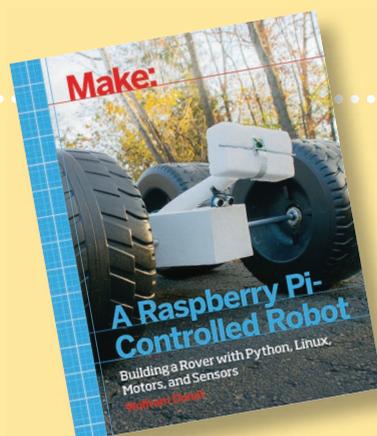
Adventures in Raspberry Pi, Carrie Anne Philbin

"This book will help you discover some of the amazing things you can do with your new Raspberry Pi, and introduce you to many of the developer tools and projects available to you." Quite a confident opening statement from the author and not too far off the mark either! There are loads of helpful explanation points that allow teachers who have little or no previous experience of using a Raspberry Pi to gain confidence in their use and understand some of the more quirky features that coding in a classroom can present. The glossary featured alone is excellent and can easily be adapted to a wall display to make the terms common language in your classroom. The '9 awesome projects' advertised will require some additional resources beyond the basic equipment, but with that comes the opportunity to merge different parts of the 9 projects to develop new and exciting ideas. This book is a fantastic opportunity to take your classes step-by-step through the guided lessons before allowing them free rein to take ownership of their learning and create independently. ◀

*Wiley 2015 - £14.99
(ISBN 978-1119046028)*

Make: A Raspberry Pi-Controlled Robot (3rd Edition), Wolfram Donat

"In tackling just one project this book teaches you the basics of the Raspberry Pi, demystifies programming on Linux, outlines motor basics, and explains the different kinds of sensors needed to make a cool robot do cool things."

This title is a more advanced look at using the popular theme of robots to engage pupils with Raspberry Pi. Whilst it is quite a steep cover price for essentially one project, the author manages to justify it with the inclusion of GPS options, accelerometers and remote Wi-Fi connections, allowing the book to be relevant to more than one subject discipline within a secondary school. The additional equipment can be expensive to compile (especially if a full class set is required) but it is the attraction of cool robots that might just make the difference to pupils and conjure up enthusiasm. ◀

*MakerMedia Inc 2015 - £10.99
(ISBN 978-1457186035)*