

## Setting up a blog hub

One of the most common bits of feedback that moderators give to centres in their reports is that it would be helpful if the centre could set up a blog hub to link to their candidates' work. A number of colleagues have asked how to go about this, so I decided it would be helpful to do a step by step guide, using the most common blogging platform, Blogger.com

### 1. Why have a hub?

There are three main reasons; the first is that it makes access to the candidates' research and planning (and often their finished work and evaluations too) much simpler for the moderator, in that the centre just sends the URL and the moderator just has to enter one address and then has access at the click of a trackpad to each of the candidates' work, avoiding mis-typing and a laborious process.

The second, perhaps more importantly, is that it enables you to provide links to online resources and to set tasks for your students throughout the course.

The third is that it gives you as a teacher instant access to their blogs so that you can keep track of their progress.

### 1. What do you need to get started?

A googlemail account and then a blogger account. Once you have a gmail account, log in and then go to [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

You should see this



The image shows the Blogger homepage. At the top, there is a dark blue banner with the Blogger logo (an orange square with a white 'B') and the word 'Blogger' in white. Below the banner, the main content area is white. On the left, there is a section titled 'Create a blog. It's free.' with an orange 'Get started' button. Below this, there are four small images of different blog templates, each with the text 'Lorem Ipsum'. Below the templates, it says 'Beautiful, customizable templates and layouts. [Try the template designer](#)'. To the right of the templates is a right-pointing arrow. Below the templates, there are three icons: a line graph for 'Up to the minute stats', a piggy bank for 'Make money with AdSense', and the Blogger logo for 'Explore [Blogs of Note](#)'. At the bottom left, it says 'Want to learn more? Take a [quick tour](#), watch a [video tutorial](#) or read [Blogger Buzz](#).' On the right side of the page, there is a sign-in box. It says 'Sign in with your [Google Account](#)'. Below that, it says 'Email: [petefraser59@gmail.com](#)'. There is a password field with the label 'Password:' and a 'Sign in' button. Below the password field, there are links for 'Forgot your password?' and 'Sign in as a different user'. At the bottom of the sign-in box, there is a button that says 'Don't have a Google Account? [Get started](#)'.

Sign in with your password and this screen will appear

**Blogger™**

1 SIGN UP ▷ 2 NAME BLOG ▷ 3 CHOOSE TEMPLATE

## 1 Sign up for Blogger

Google Accounts

Once you complete this process, you'll be able to log in to Blogger using your Google account email and password.

Email address	petefraser59@gmail.com	<a href="#">Use a different account</a>
Your name	Pete Fraser	
Display name	<input type="text"/>	The name used to sign your blog posts.

Email notifications  Send me feature announcements, advice, and other information to help me get the most out of my blog.

Acceptance of Terms  I accept the [Terms of Service](#)

Indicate that you have read and understand Blogger's Terms of Service

**CONTINUE** →

Hit continue to set up your blog

**Blogger™** petefraser59@gmail.com | [Dashboard](#) | [My Account](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign out](#)

## Dashboard

Language: English (UK)

**New!** Do you link to Amazon in your blog posts? Our Amazon Associates integration makes linking easier and can even earn you some money! Details [here](#).

**Pete** [View Profile](#) [Edit Profile](#) [Edit Photo](#) [Edit Notifications](#)

**Manage Blogs** [Create a Blog - Help](#)

You are not an author on any blogs yet, create one now to start posting!

**CREATE YOUR BLOG NOW**

Can't find your blog? See "[My blog disappeared from my account!](#)"

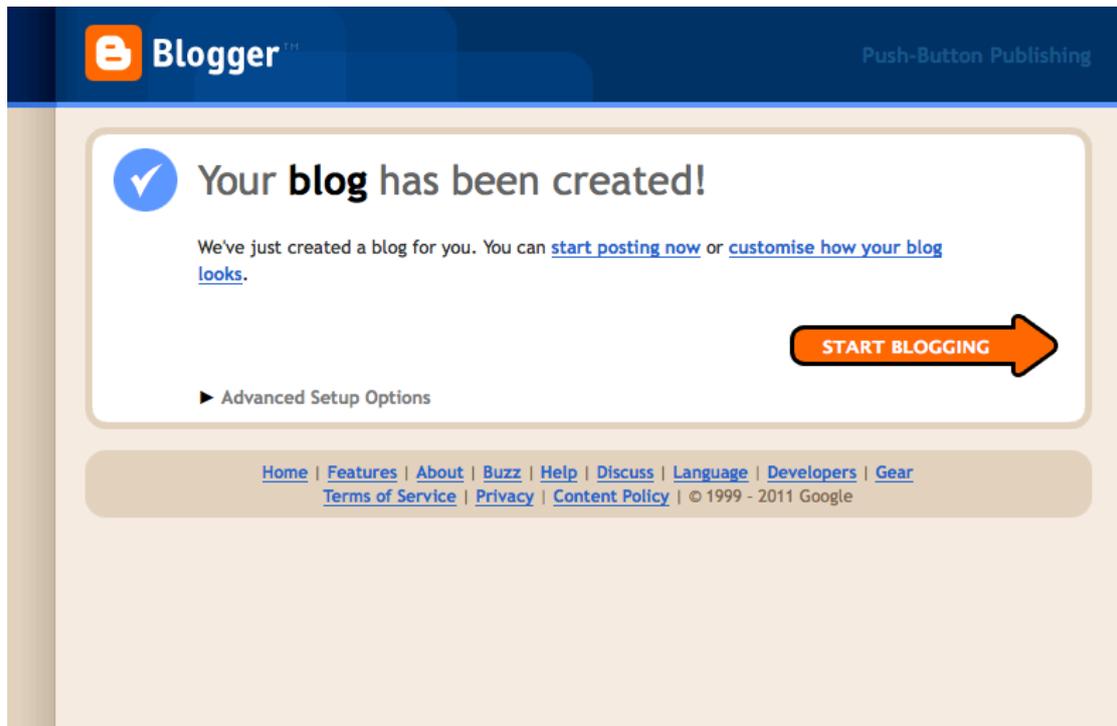
Give your blog a name

The screenshot shows the Blogger interface for naming a blog. At the top, the Blogger logo and 'Push-Button Publishing' are visible. A progress bar indicates three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT, 2. NAME BLOG (current), and 3. CHOOSE TEMPLATE. The main heading is '2 Name your blog'. Below this, there are two input fields. The first is 'Blog title' with the text 'Pete's hub' entered. Below the field is a note: 'Your blog's title will appear on your published blog, on your dashboard and in your profile.' The second field is 'Blog address (URL)' with 'http://peteshub.blogspot.com' entered. Below this field is a blue link 'Check Availability' and a green message: 'This blog address is available.' Below the URL field is a link: 'The URL you select will be used by visitors to access your blog. [Learn more](#)'. At the bottom right of the form is a large orange arrow button labeled 'CONTINUE'. At the very bottom of the page is a navigation bar with links: Home, Features, About, Buzz, Help, Discuss, Language, Developers, Gear, Terms of Service, Privacy, Content Policy, and copyright information for 1999-2011 Google.

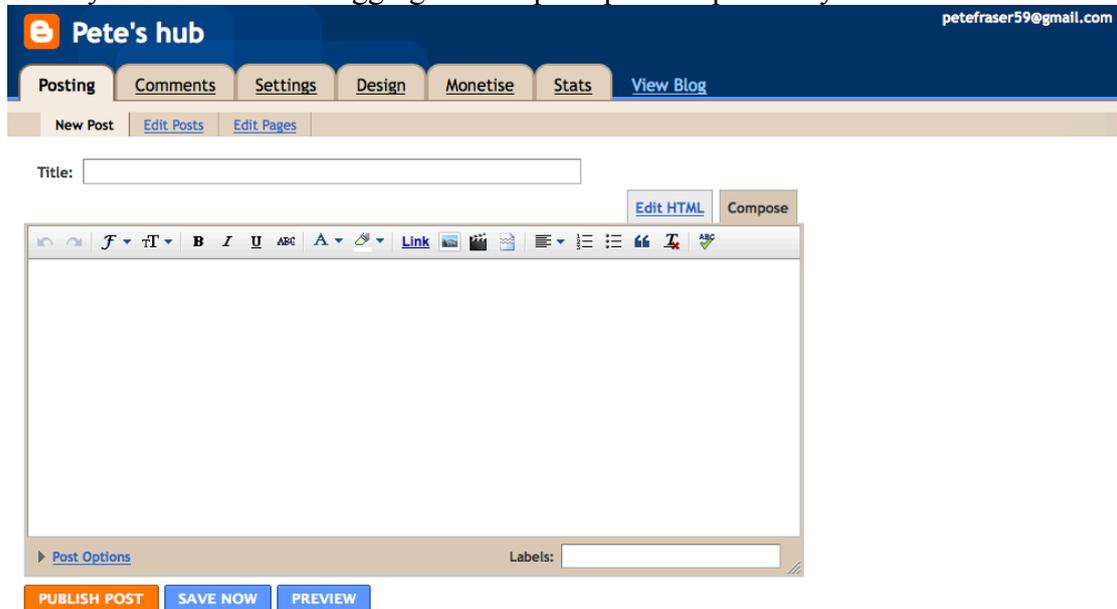
Choose from the templates on offer

The screenshot shows the Blogger interface for choosing a starter template. At the top, the Blogger logo and 'Push-Button Publishing' are visible. A progress bar indicates three steps: 1. CREATE ACCOUNT, 2. NAME BLOG (current), and 3. CHOOSE TEMPLATE. The main heading is '2 Choose a starter template'. Below the heading is a sub-heading: 'You can change your template later, and even customise it with the Template Designer.' Below this, there are eight template thumbnails arranged in two rows of four. Each thumbnail shows a preview of the template's layout. Below each thumbnail is the template name and the creator's name. The templates are: 'Simple' by Josh Peterson, 'Picture Window' by Josh Peterson, 'Awesome Inc.' by Tina Chen, 'Watermark' by Josh Peterson, 'Ethereal' by Jason Morrow, 'Travel' by Leezche, 'Simple' by Josh Peterson, and 'Watermark' by Josh Peterson.

Your blog is created!



When you click to start blogging it will open up a new post for you



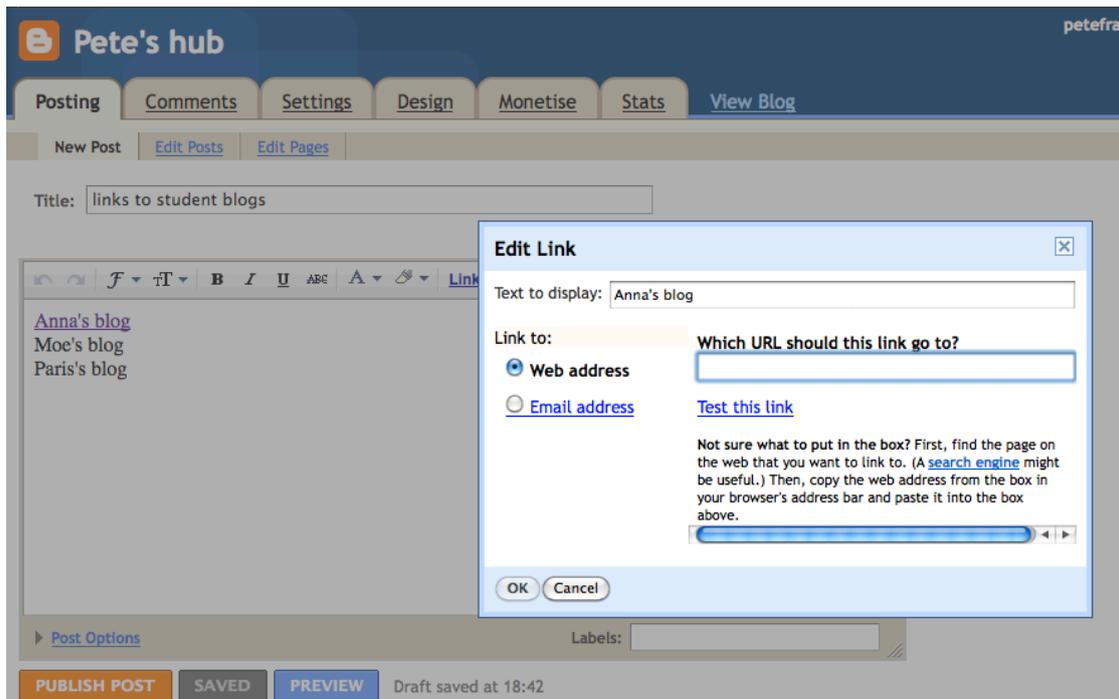
You can add images, text, links or embed video, but here we just want to put in links to all the student blogs, so I am going to type in the names of three students:

The screenshot shows the Blogger post editor for 'Pete's hub'. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Posting, Comments, Settings, Design, Monetise, Stats, and View Blog. Below these are buttons for 'New Post', 'Edit Posts', and 'Edit Pages'. The 'Title' field contains the text 'links to student blogs'. The main text area contains three lines of text: 'Anna's blog', 'Moe's blog', and 'Paris's blog'. A rich text editor toolbar is visible above the text area, with the 'Link' button highlighted in blue. At the bottom of the editor, there are buttons for 'PUBLISH POST', 'SAVED', and 'PREVIEW', along with the text 'Draft saved at 18:41'.

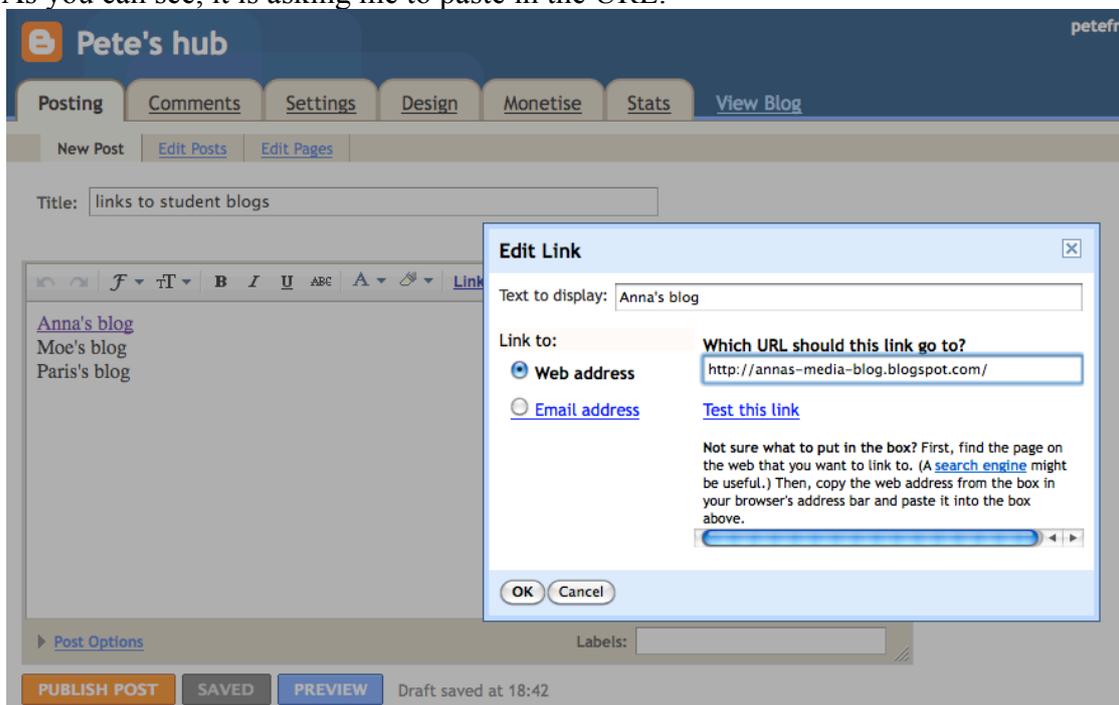
My next step is to turn each of these into a link, by copying the blog URL. First I highlighted the name of the first blog

This screenshot is similar to the one above, but now the text 'Anna's blog' in the main text area is highlighted in blue. The 'Link' button in the toolbar remains highlighted in blue. The rest of the interface, including the title field and the bottom buttons, is the same as in the previous screenshot.

Then I opened that blog in a new tab on my browser to copy the address and clicked on the link button (see the screengrab above- it says link in blue). This opens another window:

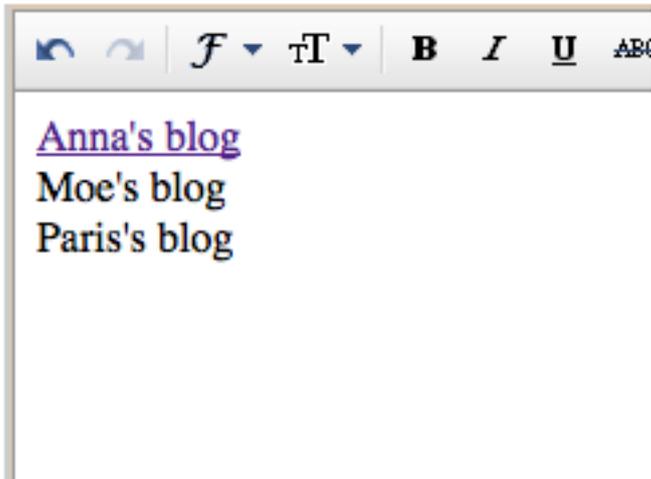


As you can see, it is asking me to paste in the URL.



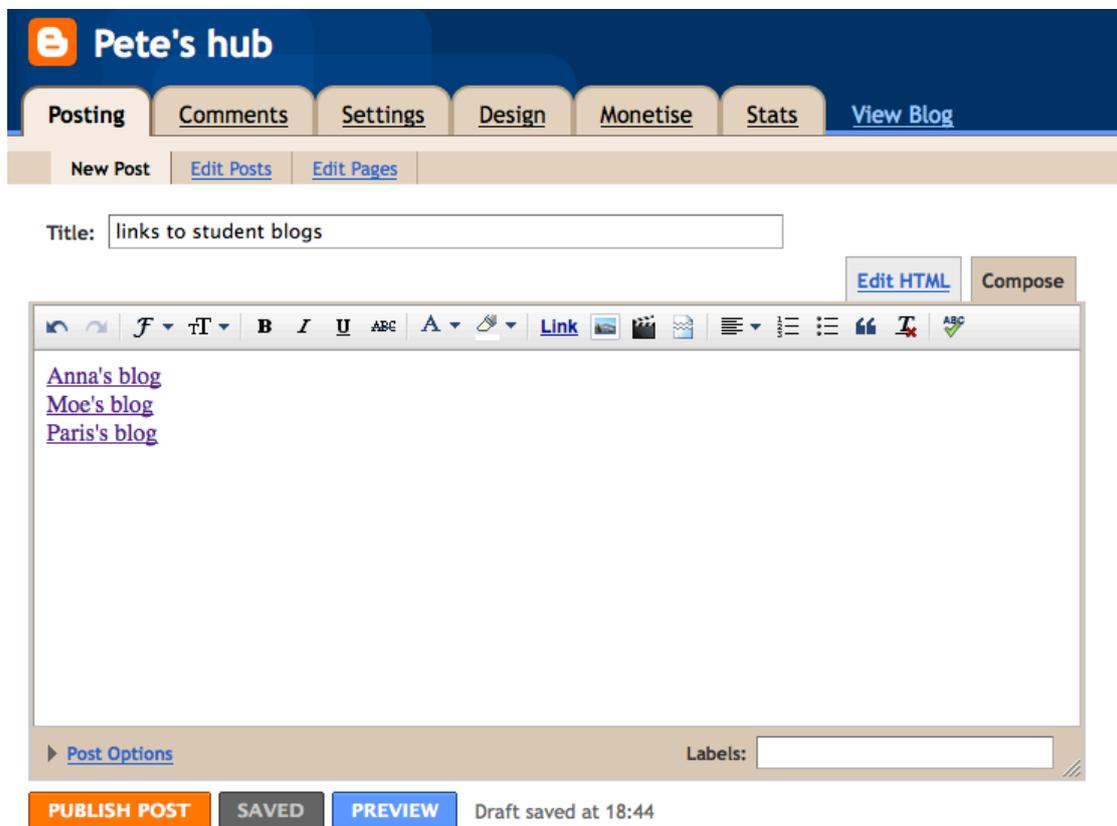
Once I have done this and clicked OK, it turns Anna into a live link

Title:



A screenshot of a rich text editor interface. The toolbar at the top includes icons for undo, redo, font face, font size, bold, italic, underline, and text color. Below the toolbar, the content area contains three lines of text: [Anna's blog](#), Moe's blog, and Paris's blog. The first line is underlined and blue, while the others are plain black text.

I then repeat this process with the other blogs from the class until all are live



A screenshot of the Blogger post editor interface. At the top, the header shows the Blogger logo and the name 'Pete's hub'. Below the header are navigation tabs for Posting, Comments, Settings, Design, Monetise, Stats, and View Blog. Underneath are buttons for New Post, Edit Posts, and Edit Pages. The main editing area has a title field containing 'links to student blogs'. To the right of the title field are buttons for Edit HTML and Compose. Below the title field is a rich text editor toolbar with various icons for text formatting, alignment, and linking. The content area contains three lines of text: [Anna's blog](#), [Moe's blog](#), and [Paris's blog](#). At the bottom of the editor, there is a 'Post Options' section with a 'Labels:' field. Below the editor are three buttons: PUBLISH POST (orange), SAVED (grey), and PREVIEW (blue). To the right of these buttons, it says 'Draft saved at 18:44'.

I then click Publish and the post is complete

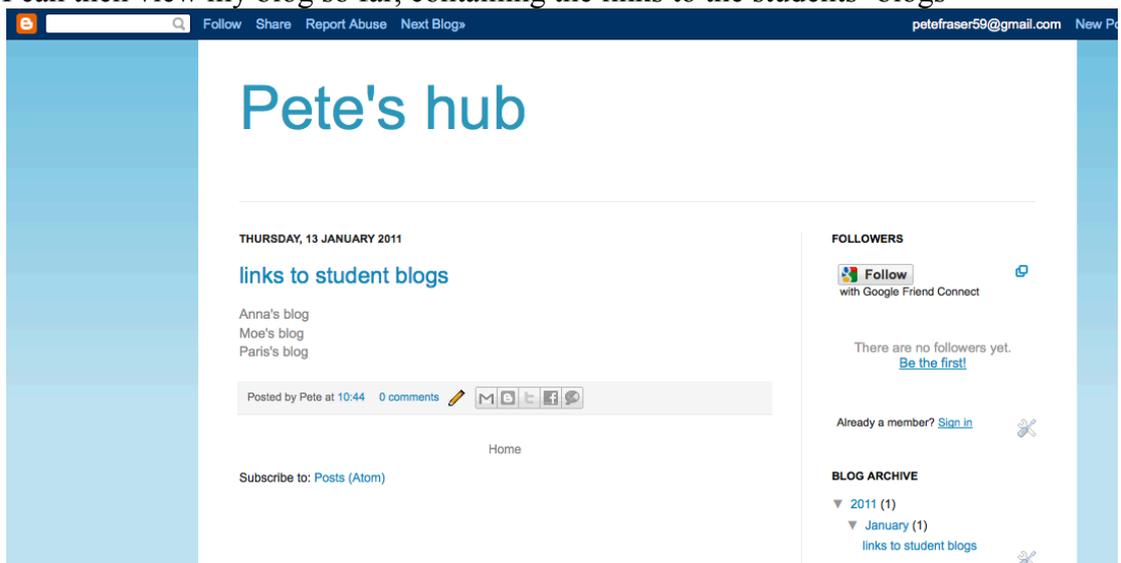


Your blog post published successfully!

[View Post](#)

Need to change it? [Edit post](#) | [Create a new post](#)

I can then view my blog so far, containing the links to the students' blogs



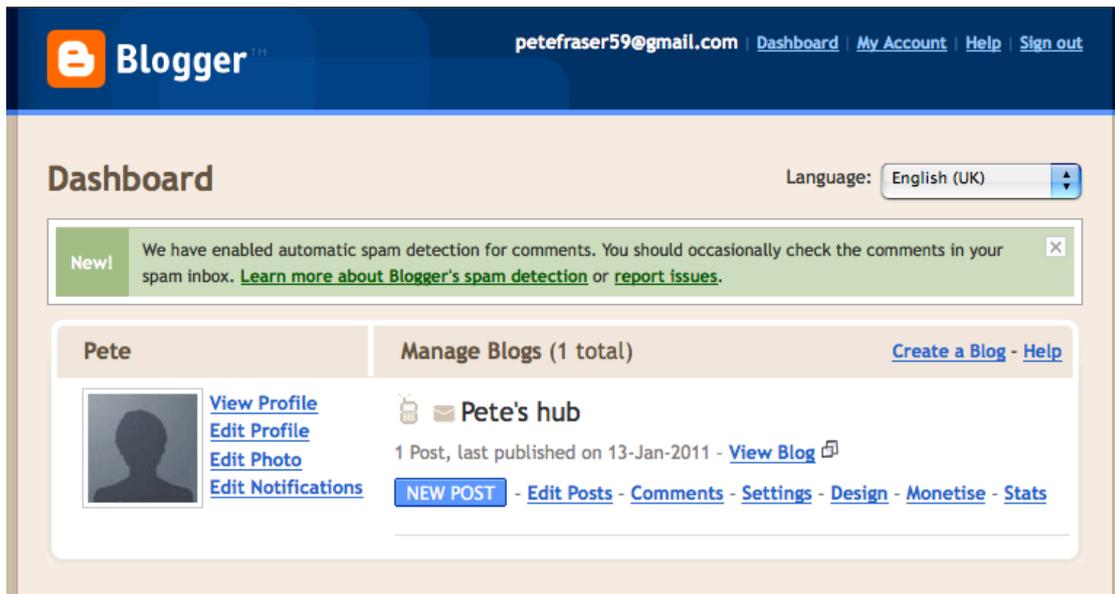
I now want to try a different way of setting up links, so I need to go back into my blog. I do this by clicking on 'New Post' at the top and then on dashboard



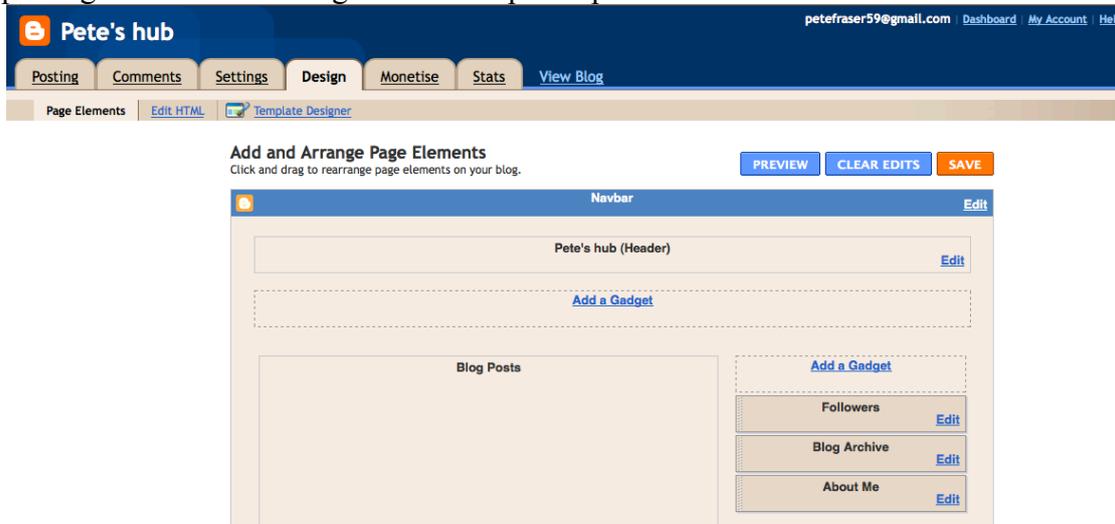
Your blog post published successfully!

[View Post](#)

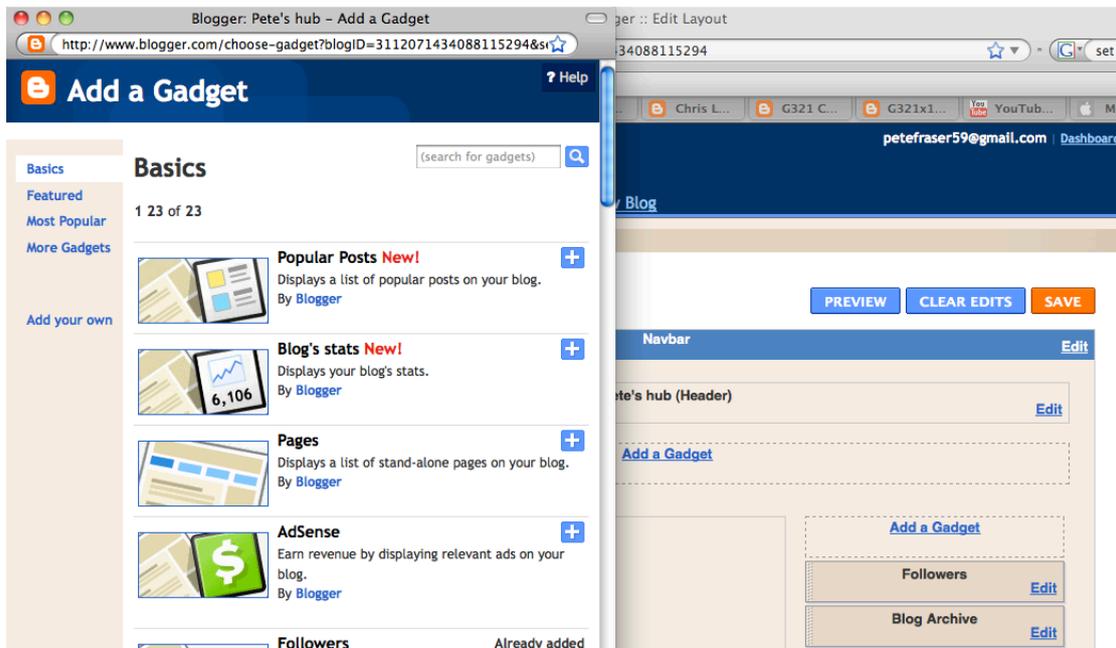
Need to change it? [Edit post](#) | [Create a new post](#)



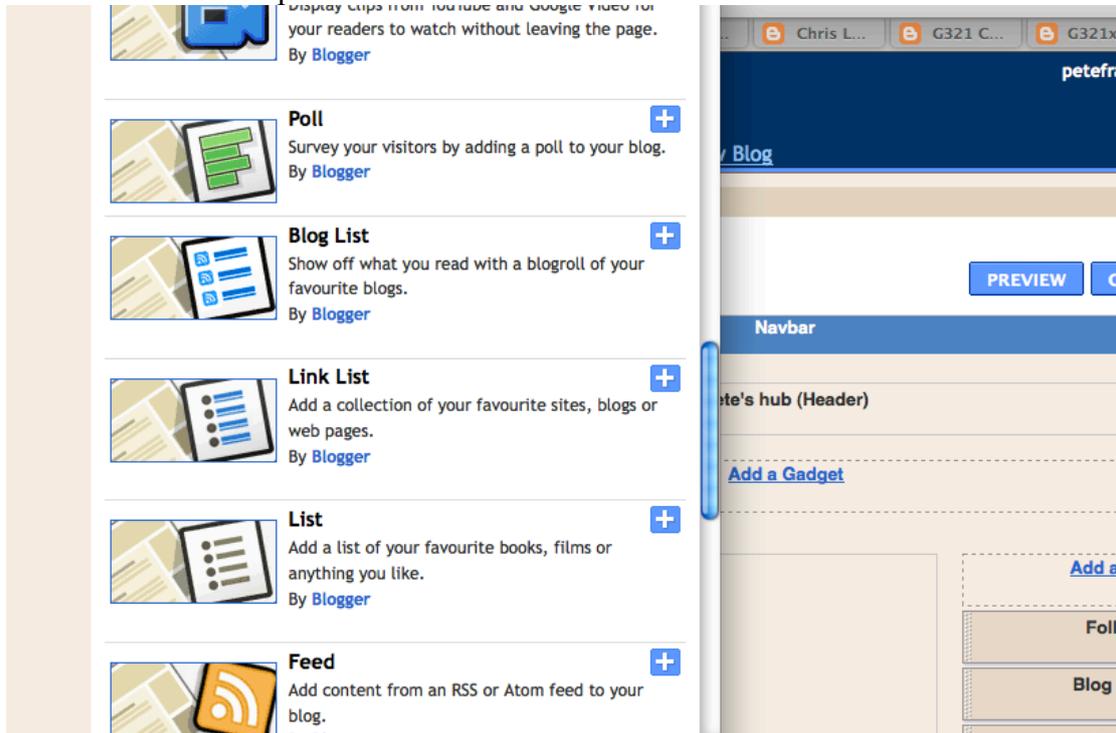
I have decided to add a links list at the top of the blog, instead of doing it all through postings. I click on 'Design' and this opens up



this allows me to set up one of many possible 'gadgets' on my blog, by clicking 'add a gadget', which opens up a further window. When I scroll down this window, I come to the option to add a links list.



This is the links list option



If I click the + button, it adds it to my blog, opening up this window, which is basically asking me what I want to put in there.

**Configure Link List** Help

**BACK** **CANCEL** **SAVE**

Title

Number of links to show in list  *Leave blank to show all links*

Sorting

New Site URL

New Site Name

**ADD LINK**

**BACK** **CANCEL** **SAVE**

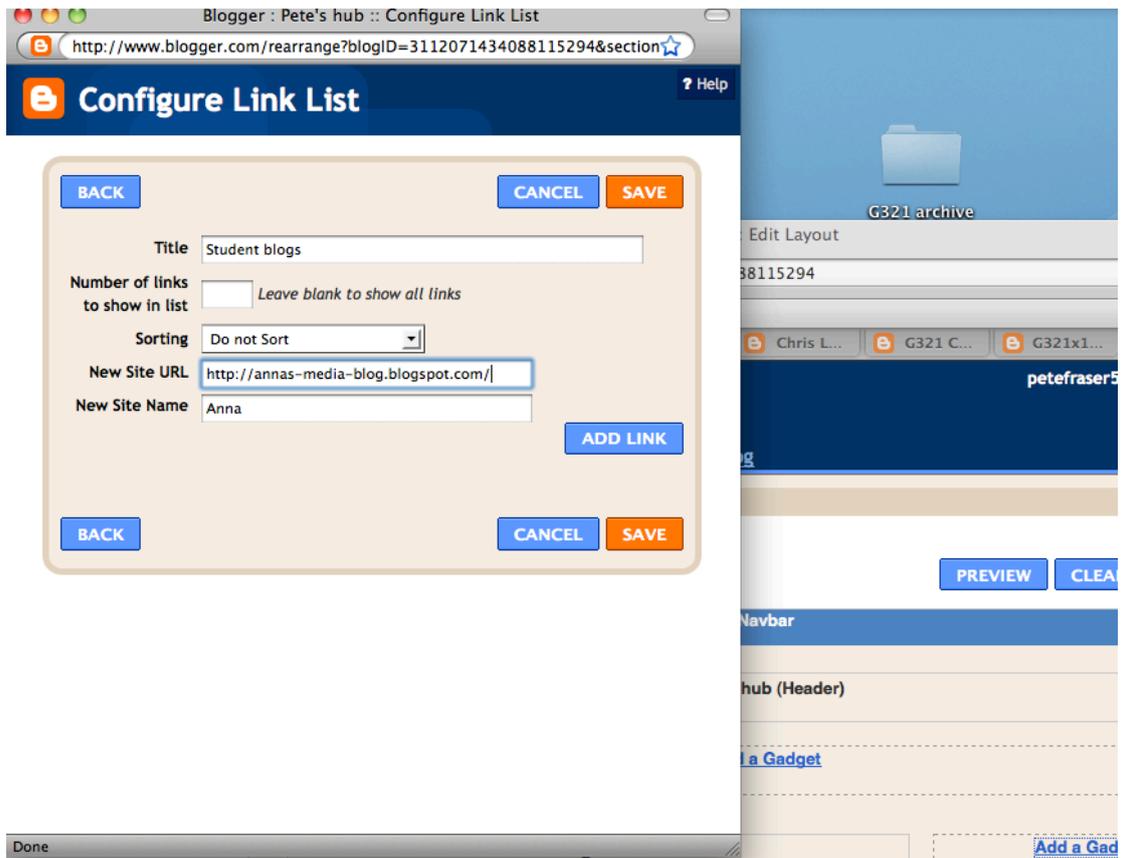
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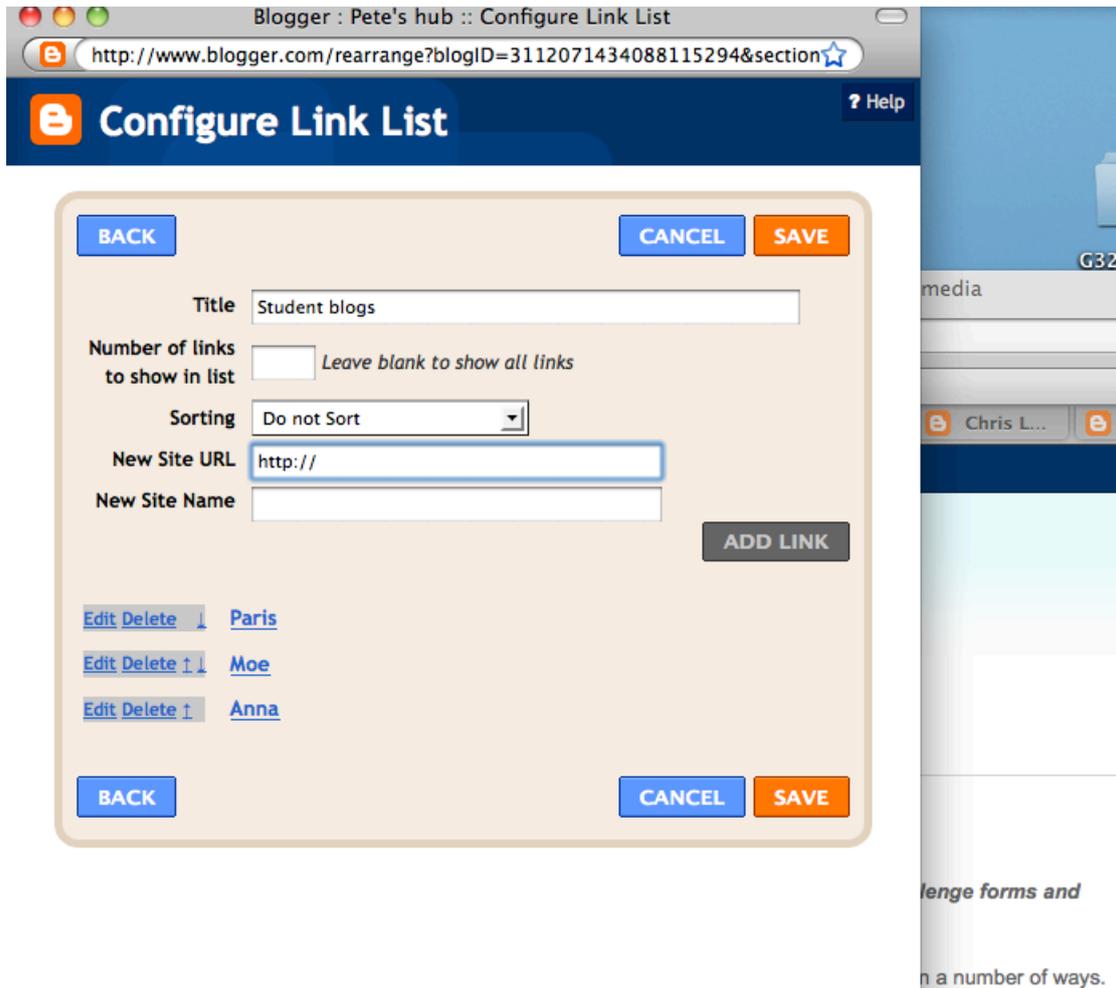
te's hu

Add a

If I type in the name of each student in turn and paste in the URL of their blog, adding link each time, my list is created.

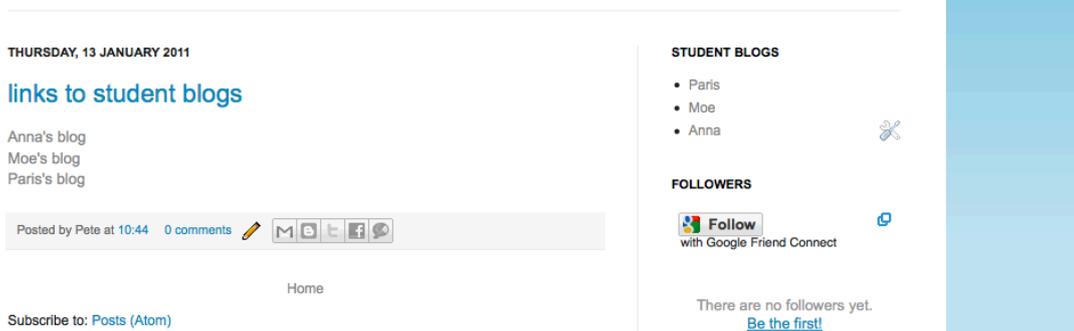


As you can see the list can go on as long as you like



When finished, I click Save and view blog and now I have the option- either a separate list of student blogs at the top of my site or all the blogs within one post.

## Pete's hub



So from now on, to access all the student blogs, the only address I need is <http://peteshub.blogspot.com/> and everything else will be accessible from there.

Hope this helps! Happy blogging!