

## e-Update January 2006

Welcome to the 13th edition of e-Update, the monthly electronic bulletin from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team.

The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed with the latest developments in ICT.

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The information in e-Update has been taken from a variety of sources including ICTSN, ICT Advice and Becta. Details on how to subscribe to these and other sources of information can be found at the end of e-Update.

e-Update can also be found on the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> and on the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>.

If you have any comments on e-Update, please send them to [adickson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

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## General News

### **Buckinghamshire Schools Achieve the new ICT Mark**

**Andy Dickson**

Congratulations go to three Buckinghamshire schools that are amongst the first to achieve the new ICT Mark, which will take over from the Naacemark for Schools award this year.

Bedgrove Infant and St Mary & All Saints CE had previously achieved Naacemark in 2005 and were invited by Becta to meet the criteria for transition from the Naacemark to the ICT Mark. Both schools were successful and received their awards at BETT. Lent Rise took part in the pilot for ICT Mark and has also achieved the award.

### **Inclusive Technology Launches Chooselt! Maker 2**

**Imogen Wedgewood**

It's easy to create decision-making activities and quizzes with Chooselt! Maker 2, the latest activity-making program from Inclusive Technology. It turns your text, images and sounds into on-screen activities that are automatically accessible using a mouse, whiteboard, touch monitor, keyboard or switches. The new program has enhanced flexibility, with the ability to offer text choices as well as images and to have more than one correct answer if required. There is also a new export feature that allows you to transfer your activities onto other computers or a CD. Also included is a freely copiable 'player' version to help share activities - children can even take them home. Chooselt! Maker 2 includes a huge resource library with over 1,500 pictures and sounds, including a selection of PCS symbols from Mayer-Johnson. Further details are available at [http://www.inclusive.co.uk/catalogue/acatalog/Chooselt\\_Maker\\_2.html](http://www.inclusive.co.uk/catalogue/acatalog/Chooselt_Maker_2.html) or call 01457 819790.

### **Practical Support Pack website is now live**

**Rebecca Singer**

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/supportpack/>

The Learning and Teaching Using ICT — Practical Support Pack website is designed to help primary and KS3 secondary teachers teach using ICT. Materials include lesson plans, multimedia resources, video case studies and ICT support materials. The website has everything teachers will need to teach a particular teaching topic, from planning and preparation to evaluation and homework.

### **BETT Awards 2006 Winners - Successful Products for Educational Practice**

**ICTSN Directory**

The winners of this year's BETT Awards have been announced. The BETT Awards represent a partnership between Becta, BESA, the trade association representing educational supply companies; Emap Education, the organisers of BETT; and EC&T magazine. The Awards play a key role in rewarding excellence in the design of products and services which are proving to be effective in the educational sector. Sixty-eight judges applied strict quality criteria to a total of 571 entries.

Full press release at [http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press\\_out.cfm?id=5012](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press_out.cfm?id=5012).

Video clips of each winning product being used in an educational setting can be found at <http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/display.cfm?section=21&id=4978>.

### **Becta Launches New ICT Excellence Awards**

#### ***ICTSN Directory***

A new award scheme for schools which identifies and rewards whole school excellence in ICT has been launched.

Supported by the TES and sponsored by Ramesys, the ICT Excellence Awards aim to highlight exemplar organisations which have effectively transformed aspects of their business through ICT, benefiting their whole community, inside and outside the school building. By recognising whole school best practice these awards align with Becta's self-review framework for school and college improvement with ICT, and the new ICT Mark. The new scheme replaces the highly successful ICT in Practice Awards which primarily identified expert individuals. Whilst inspirational practitioners are still highly important, the focus of the new awards will be on those individuals leading change within the school or college to impact on whole school development.

The new categories will aim to identify institutional change processes which impact on learner achievement, and will be split into primary and secondary. They are: Inclusion, Assessment, Leadership, Learning and Teaching, Curriculum Development, Extended Schools. There will also be two awards for whole school ICT excellence in primary and secondary. To enter, schools must be able to demonstrate they are at a high level on Becta's self-review framework in their chosen category. To be eligible for the primary and secondary whole school awards, schools must be in receipt of, and be building upon, the ICT Mark available from April 2006. They will be able to demonstrate excellence across all the categories. Further details on criteria and how to apply will be available at <http://www.becta.org.uk/awards from early February 2006>.

Full press release at [http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press\\_out.cfm?id=5013](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press_out.cfm?id=5013).

### **Becta Announces a Review of Microsoft Licensing Programmes for Schools and Colleges in the UK**

#### ***ICTSN Directory***

Becta has announced it is to undertake a value for money review of Microsoft's educational licensing programmes and their impact in the UK. The review will include the range, scope and cost of academic licensing models available, covering the degree to which they meet the needs of UK schools and colleges and represent value for money. The review will pay particular attention to Microsoft's subscription licensing models and the risks associated with non-perpetual licences. It will examine the total costs of exiting those licence agreements and the corresponding risks of 'lock-in'. Becta intends to consult with a range of stakeholders in the UK as it develops its report.

Full press release at [http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press\\_out.cfm?id=5006](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press_out.cfm?id=5006).

### **National Review to Ensure Effective Home ICT Access to Enable Continuity of Learning Between a Student's Home and School**

#### ***ICTSN Directory***

Becta, the Government's agency leading the development and implementation of the Department for Education and Skills e-Strategy, has announced a review of software licensing and document interoperability issues in relation to home and school computer use. The review will analyse ways in which both pupils and parents can cost effectively acquire the applications and licences necessary when working on the same document on either a home or school computer. It will also address compatibility issues when a home computer runs different office productivity products to those used at school. Becta will also explore the licensing implications when a pupil or a parent logs on to a school system, and uses resources and applications on those systems. Becta will consult with a range of bodies when developing its report, including the providers of office productivity software, head teachers, LEAs and Regional Broadband Consortia (RBCs), the Office of Fair Trading, and the Office of Government Commerce. An interim report is expected to be available by August 2006. This action supports the implementation of the DfES e-Strategy 'Harnessing Technology: Transforming Learning and Children's Services' which states "we will make it easier for parents and carers to engage with and support their children's learning by opening up school-based internet systems, bridging the gap between school and home, making available secure access to pupil information, learning activities and email-based communication."

Full press release at [http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press\\_out.cfm?id=5011](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/press_out.cfm?id=5011).

### **Not at BETT - watch Teachers TV reports**

**Rebecca Singer**

If you didn't make it to the BETT show, watch the Teachers TV BETT Report online at <http://www.teachers.tv/bett>.

Three fifteen minute video sequences cover the highlights of the first three days of the show.

ICTSN footnote: You can also browse through dozens of programmes focusing particularly on ICT and watch them online.

### **BETT 2006 - Speech by Secretary of State**

**Rebecca Singer**

The full speech is available to view online or you can download a full copy in word at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/speeches/latest.cfm>.

### **Education Software 'Must Try Harder'**

**Richard Selwyn**

Research published in the journal Education 3 to 13 has suggested that pupils who use interactive software cannot remember the stories they have just read because they are distracted by cartoons and sound effects. The research looked at two classes of six year-olds who used interactive book software or talking books to learn reading skills. A day later 90 per cent of the talking book users could remember the story, compared to 30 per cent who used the interactive software.

Full press release at <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2148338/educative-software-fails>.

### **Old Industry Launches New Resource**

**Rebecca Singer**

The Virtual Quarry website has been developed by the Quarry Products Association (QPA) with the support of the Mineral Industry Sustainable Technology programme and a variety of other partners. The open access site provides both an interactive fun experience for children and a substantial resource for teachers. For youngsters, the highlight is a tour of a virtual quarry by a team of walking, talking animated characters, who explain where the materials for our buildings and roads come from. The user is treated to a variety of fun and educational activities such as piloting a rock delivery truck and activating a quarry blast. After the tour, youngsters can transform an old quarry into a nature reserve and take a closer look at rocks and fossils. There is also a Rock Cinema, information on wide-ranging events around the UK and links to a variety of fun places to visit. Teachers are provided with substantial learning resources covering key stages 1 to 4 of the National Curriculum. These include more than 20 complete teaching units developed against the schemes of work recommended by the Department for Education and Skills.

The Virtual Quarry website is available at <http://www.virtualquarry.co.uk>.

### **E-Assessment Glossary**

**Richard Selwyn**

A new glossary, developed jointly by JISC and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, expresses vocabulary and terms used in e-assessment. Endorsed by all the UK qualifications and curriculum authorities, the glossary is aimed at a wide range of education professionals who may not have specialist knowledge of e-assessment but who need an understanding of terms they come across in their day-to-day work.

For further details see [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=assessment\\_glossary](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=assessment_glossary).

A 120pp PDF file at: [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded\\_documents/eAssess-Glossary-Extended-v1-01.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/eAssess-Glossary-Extended-v1-01.pdf).

A 46pp PDF file at: [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded\\_documents/eAssess-Glossary-Short-v1-01.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/eAssess-Glossary-Short-v1-01.pdf).

### **Google Bundles Up Desktop Tools**

**Rebecca Singer**

A new Google pack has been launched which helps users download, install and maintain software to use the internet more effectively. The pack which can be downloaded from <http://pack.google.com/> includes Google Earth satellite imaging software, the Google Talk instant messaging application, Google Toolbar for web browsers and Google's desktop search software, Mozilla's Firefox web browser, a version of Norton AntiVirus software from Symantec and Adobe Reader 7.

Full press release at <http://www.itweek.co.uk/itweek/news/2148501/google-bundles-desktop-tools>.

## Primary News

### **Transforming the Interactive Whiteboard: The E-Gadget Factory Launches Design and Technology E-Gadget Pack**

**Len Adam**

An e-gadget is a curriculum related digital asset, easily uploaded and automatically organised to the whiteboard according to QCA curriculum referencing. Once installed, e-gadgets can be instantly located and manipulated by the user to emphasise a particular teaching point. E-gadgets are designed in a number of variants including i-gadgets (interactive), p-gadgets (picture), a-gadgets (animated) and q-gadgets (question).

The e-gadget factory have now released the first complete e- gadget subject pack to schools containing over 1000 e-gadgets with a focus on design and technology at Key Stage 2. All e-gadgets can be purchased using e-Learning Credits. e-gadgets can be used on all interactive whiteboards but integrate seamlessly into the SMART Notebook gallery. This effectively means that digital content is playing in and not on the interactive whiteboard.

For more information visit <http://www.egadgetfactory.com>.

## Websites of the Month

### **London Parks Discovery Project**

This project is an educational programme introducing school children to London's cultural and natural heritage by exploration of their local green spaces. The website offers information and ideas on topics such as park wildlife and measuring the height of trees.

URL: <http://www.parkexplorer.org.uk>

### **Beep: Bioethics Education Project**

This project offers information and teaching resources for A-level science teachers and their students. Its purpose is to highlight the moral, ethical, social, economic, environmental and technological implications and applications of biology. The website also offers a discussion forum and a 'search by syllabus' function.

URL: <http://www.beep.ac.uk>

### **Thinkuknow**

This website offers young people advice about how to stay safe while using the internet. It encourages children to think carefully about whom they might be talking to online and not to put themselves into danger offline. Specifically, the site offers guidance about how to do instant messaging, gaming and blogging safely online. The website also warns anyone thinking about meeting up in person with an online friend to always: go accompanied, ideally by an adult; let someone know where you are going; meet in a public place.

URL: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

### **Open News Archive**

This BBC News site offers nearly 80 archive news reports for you to access and download. You can watch them or use them to create something unique. Some copyright is still retained by the independent programme makers, and the musicians, performers and artists who created it. You will need to agree to the conditions of the Creative Archive Licence before you can download the files offered and you will also need to attach the same licence to anything you create with it. This is a pilot and the BBC would like to see your productions and showcase some of the most interesting ones they receive.

URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/calc/news/>

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## Subscription Details

### **Becta/ ICT Advice**

To subscribe to the various publications, click here:

<http://www.ictadvice.org.uk/index.php?section=ab&catcode=registration>

**ICTSN**

ICTSN membership is available to organisations that provide support to schools. Schools are therefore not eligible for membership. Information about ICTSN can be found at <http://www.becta.org.uk/ictsn/index.cfm>.

**RM**

To subscribe to the various RM newsletters, visit the RM website at <http://www.rm.com/Security/Login/FormsLogin.asp> and register. If you are already registered, log in and go to *Email Subscriptions* in *My Account*.

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