

e-Update February 2006

Welcome to the 14th 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.

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.

If you wish to unsubscribe from e-Update, please send an email to adickson@buckscc.gov.uk with the title **Unsubscribe**.

General News

ICT across the Curriculum Conference and Exhibition Thursday 16th March 2006, 10.30am to 4.30pm - Aylesbury Civic Centre

Mike Woods

Are you involved in ICT in schools? Are you a Head Teacher or School Governor? Do you have some strategic involvement in educational ICT or would you just like to know more about the ICT work going on in Buckinghamshire schools? Then come along to the 2006 ICT across the Curriculum Conference and Exhibition to be held in Aylesbury Civic Centre from 10.30 to 4.30 on 16th March 2006.

Claire Gill, Head of Leadership and Support at Becta will be our 'keynote' speaker at 11am when she will be sharing with us information about the Becta self review framework for ICT and the "ICT Mark" due to be launched nationally at the end of March. This new award scheme for schools identifies and rewards whole school excellence in ICT.

At Buckinghamshire's own mini 'BETT' you will also be able to share in some of the excellent work being done in the county's schools and have the opportunity to visit a large exhibition featuring cutting edge developments in hardware and software.

A FREE lunch will be provided and a FREE bottle of wine will be presented to the first 100 visitors to the conference who have pre-registered at www.eml-ed.co.uk.

Details can be found at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=144>.

For further information please contact Mike Woods, County ICT Adviser mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk.

BBC jam goes live

BBC Press Office

BBC jam – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jam> – the BBC's new broadband learning service for 5 to 16 year olds, went live at the end of January.

The service is an innovative combination of curriculum-based activities, video games, audio and animation putting learners at its heart.

Mark Thompson, BBC Director-General, said: "Learning has been one of three pillars of the BBC since the 1920s and it remains so today.

"I'm extremely proud that we have been able to design a service in discussion with the young people who will use it, to bridge the gap between home and the classroom by creating something innovative and distinctive which really works for them.

"Right across the BBC we are looking at ways to listen effectively to our audiences and to give them an active role in shaping our content. BBC learning is pioneering that change with BBC jam."

The broadband service will see 20 commissions go live throughout 2006.

The first six are Maths and English for five to seven year olds, Science for seven to nine year olds, Geography for seven to 11 year olds, French for 11 to 14 year olds and Business Studies for 14 to 16 year olds.

It continues to build over the next two years - until September 2008 - making it the BBC's most comprehensive education service while remaining complementary to existing e-learning products.

Designed as an appealing mix of formal curriculum-based resources and engaging informal learning, BBC jam is aimed first and foremost at the children themselves so that they are in charge of what, when, where and how they want to learn.

It also has the potential to provide an exciting addition to any lesson to help teachers get children truly interested.

The service hopes to encourage parents to be more involved in their children's education.

Freely available at anytime, BBC jam provides high quality, reliable resources that will spark imaginations, injecting fun and creativity into education, and engage children who are not achieving their full potential by encouraging them to try an alternative way of learning.

Liz Cleaver, Controller of Learning and Interactive, BBC, said: "The world in which pupils today live and learn is changing and with BBC jam we wanted to provide a service that would stimulate children and engage them in education by putting creativity and control in their hands.

"This heralds an exciting development for online learning and we hope this will make a true impact on education in the UK."

The school subjects to be covered by BBC jam in 2006 are: Maths for ages 5-7; English for ages 5-7 and 7-9; Science for ages 5-7 and 7-9; Geography for ages 7-9 and 11-14; Design and Technology for ages 11-14; History for ages 5-7 and 9-11; Modern Foreign Languages (French) for ages 11-14; Religious Education for ages 7-9; Music for ages 7-9; Physical Education for ages 9-11; Business Studies for ages 14-16; Financial capability for ages 14-16; Citizenship and its equivalent subjects in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for ages 9-11 years.

Also covered will be Field Studies for those with severe learning difficulties.

Welsh language commissions in Geography and French go live today with up to 20 more due to be launched in during the next 12 months covering Science, RE, Music, History, Maths, Welsh, Welsh Second Language and PSHE.

Other subjects will continue to be added until September 2008.

Go to Curriculum Online to view alternative learning materials – <http://www.curriculumonline.gov.uk>.

Teachers' TV is 1 year old

Andy Dickson

This month saw the first birthday of Teachers' TV.

Launched by the DfES, Teachers' TV is the UK's first public sector television channel to be created for a specific workforce.

Teachers' TV is supported by an extensive online service where most of the channel's programmes are available to view or download for free over broadband. There are already over 800 programmes online, giving guidance on everything from teaching skills and behaviour management to development of school-wide strategies and the training of teachers, support staff and governors.

Among the plans for Year 2 are closer working with agencies and policy teams, a Video On Demand service and DVDs of key programmes for schools and teachers.

You can watch Teachers' TV on Sky Guide 592, Telewest 240, ntl 803, KIT 70, HomeChoice 845, or Freeview 88 (12-6am).

For more information, visit <http://www.teachers.tv/home.do>.

Safeguard children in a digital world

NGfL News

A new report examines the risks associated with the use of new technologies in English schools and colleges.

The research, carried out by the University of Central Lancashire, considers a survey of 444 schools and examines technical safety measures; management policies and procedures around e-safety; access to support and models of good practice.

It highlights a number of recommendations by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency's Safe Use of ICT in Education steering group. These will appear in a forthcoming publication 'Safeguarding children in a digital world: developing a strategic approach to e-safety'.

The new publication intends to provide a strategic overview of e-safety issues to policy makers and outlines a model for a co-ordinated approach by all of the key stakeholders.

Both publications were launched at an event on 8 February at Birmingham Motorcycle Museum. The event, also entitled 'Safeguarding children in a digital world' highlights how information and communications technologies (ICT) play a fundamental role the safety and welfare of children within the digital world. The research, event and publication aim to provide e-safety professionals with the latest information on how to meet the challenges new technology brings.

The research report is available at <http://becta.org.uk/research/research.cfm?section=1&id=5005>.

Red letter day for reading

NGfL News

Join a worldwide celebration of books and reading at World Book Day on 2 March.

Marked in more than 30 countries around the globe last year, the day originated in Catalonia, where roses and books were given as gifts to loved ones on St. George's Day - a tradition started some 80 years ago.

It is now the biggest annual event supporting books and reading in the UK and Ireland and the emphasis for 2006 is 'celebration'. Schools, libraries, bookshops and other venues will be encouraged to hold even more book-related events, activities and parties than in previous years.

As part of World Book Day's commitment to encouraging reading for pleasure, 2006 will see a new initiative - 'Quick Reads' - designed to provide a choice of new books for people who want to regain the reading habit or who experience some difficulty reading.

World Book Day grows every year. Continuing activity will include pre-school and secondary school registration in the UK to receive schools packs and World Book Day £1 Book Tokens. UK primary schools and all Irish Schools will automatically receive this material as usual. There will, once again, be six special World Book Day £1 Books that can be exchanged for the £1 Book Token.

Teachers can visit the website for free activities to download in three sections: pre-school, primary and secondary. Visit the main website for full details. <http://www.worldbookday.com/>.

Learning to change the world

NGfL News

Teachers hunting for resources about global issues will welcome a new catalogue with hundreds of titles including teaching packs, books, games, posters and videos/DVDs.

'Oxfam's Catalogue for Schools 2006' has just been published and contains more than 400 specially selected education resources - all supporting a global approach to teaching and learning.

The global events of 2005 clearly had an impact on young people throughout the UK. The response to the tsunami, Make Poverty History, Live8, and the earthquake in Pakistan all raised their awareness of how their lives have become truly global, and inspired them to want to make the world a better place.

Current debates, e.g. about freedom of speech and religious tolerance, are now more relevant than ever.

For copies of the Oxfam Catalogue for Schools, teachers should contact Oxfam on 0870 333 2700 or send an email to education@oxfam.org.uk.

Visit <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/catalogue.htm> for more information and to order your free copy.

Scientific approach to a fact-filled week

NGfL News

National Science Week aims to celebrate science and its importance to our lives, giving people across the UK the chance to participate in science activities, experiments and discussions.

The BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science – <http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/>) co-ordinates National Science Week (NSW), 10 - 19 March 2006, providing a national context for each event. It offers activity ideas, advice and support to those organising and publicising science events.

Staff have put together a challenge pack entitled "Colour Chaos!" - full of simple hands-on activities and demonstrations that can be done at home, or as part of a class activity, on the theme of colour.

The BA provides a free support, information and advice service to organisers of events during National Science Week. Teachers are invited to download free activity packs from the website.

These include a factsheet, a guide to running a National Science Week event; funding and publicity, a booklist, a science presenter and outreach directory; plus logos, stickers, quizzes and challenge packs. See <http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/Events/NationalScienceWeek/GetInvolved/NSWRResources/>.

Whiteboard and projector security

Andy Dickson

Becta have updated their advice on Whiteboard and Projector security. This is available online at http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=te&catcode=as-pres_02&rid=10902&wn=1

Secondary News

New resources boost citizenship lessons

NGfL News

Teachers of Key Stage 3 citizenship can take advantage of new materials from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

A downloadable booklet and DVD have been developed with teachers and trialled with pupils to demonstrate different approaches to assessing citizenship.

Examples range from activities to assess group discussion to source-based assessment activities to integrate into a unit of work. The materials provide examples of real assessment techniques for teaching and learning citizenship, and are flexible so can be used in different ways during citizenship lessons.

The examples set out the standards expected of pupils in the categories of working towards, working at and working beyond expectations, and demonstrate how pupils themselves can be involved in the assessment process.

The assessment activities use topical issues relevant to society today suitable for student debates. Find the pdf files on 'Assessing citizenship: example assessment activities for Key Stage 3' on QCA's website, <http://www.qca.org.uk/15871.html>. The teacher resources and worksheets are available as a downloadable Word file.

Online media package makes the headlines

NGfL News

'Breaking the News' is a new online resource to enable students to go behind the scenes of broadcast news and make their own version of Channel 4 News.

Via its website, it aims to bring news-making and media literacy to life, with lesson plans, an online video editing tool and real television news footage to make news stories.

Teachers can use this flexible resource, created by Channel 4 and ITN, within the contexts of English and communication, media studies, citizenship and so forth.

As part of the project, an experiment with nine schools and colleges from London, the West Midlands and East of England, worked with Channel 4 News to make an online news bulletin.

Each participating school made three stories which they submitted for the newsday bulletin, a local story, a feature story and an on-the-day story.

Each school team used the Breaking the News website resources and worked with their teachers and a mentor who was an experienced broadcast news journalist. They shot, scripted and edited their own material. On Newsday, they submitted their on-the-day stories via the website using the eSEQ editing tool.

Visit <http://www.channel4.com/learning/breakingthenews/> for more details.

Websites of the Month

The Teaching Zone

Contains a variety of free resources for teachers, including lesson plans, fact sheets, activities, sounds, videos images and posters. They can be used to support PSHE, citizenship and other lessons based on railway crime, safety issues, travelling on the railways or the history of the railways.

URL: <http://www.teachingzone.org>

Special Operations Executive in the Far East

The story of a common soldier recruited into MI5 and sent on a mission to what was the British Military's greatest defeat of the Second World War, Singapore. The site tells stories of the missions, gives a background of the SOE and introduces some of the characters involved.

URL: <http://www.m.a.christie.btinternet.co.uk>

The Baccalieu: Crossroads for Cultures

A bilingual portal to the 17th century, a place to observe the story of the New World through the eyes of some of the earliest European settlers in North America. The site contains maps, transcripts, a timeline of events and biographies.

URL: <http://www.crossroadsforcultures.ca>

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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