

## **e-Update March 2006**

Welcome to the 15th 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 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**

### **ICT Excellence Awards**

#### ***Becta***

The ICT Excellence Awards is a new award scheme for schools, which aims to identify and reward whole school excellence in ICT.

The ICT Excellence Awards have been launched to reward schools across the UK approaching ICT in outstanding or innovative ways, benefiting their whole community, inside and outside the school building.

By recognising whole-school best practice these awards are closely aligned with Becta's self-review framework for school and college improvement with ICT, which will be available from April 2006, and the new ICT Mark. While rewarding the school as a whole, there will be a focus within the new awards on those individuals leading change within the school and making an impact across it.

There are seven awards categories in total, each being open to nursery and primary schools and secondary schools. One category is for the best whole school. The other six categories focus on assessment; curriculum; extending learning; inclusion; leadership and vision; and learning and teaching.

Each category is split in to 2 sections, primary (covering all provision from ages 3-11) and secondary (for those teaching ages 11-18). There are cash prizes for the winning schools. The money is to be spent on ICT equipment, provision or training to enhance the excellent practice already present in the schools.

Schools should complete an online application form to enter these awards. You need to decide which awards category to apply for and in which sector, primary or secondary. The deadline for entries is 13 April 2006.

For more information, please visit the ICT Excellence Awards website: [www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards/](http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards/).

### **Internet safety is a major challenge**

#### ***Becta***

In a recent survey, only four out of ten young people said they would tell their parents if they found something on the internet that made them feel uncomfortable. Also, although some 92 per cent of 9- to 19-year-olds use the internet at school, 30 per cent have not received lessons on how to use it. These figures are based on a survey of young people and their parents conducted by the London School of Economics (LSE). The report, UK children go online (<http://www.children-go-online.net>), was part of the launch of a new website, Internet Safety Zone (<http://www.internetsafetyzone.com>), which is published by government, academics, children's welfare organisation and others. Find information on firewalls and other security issues. There is also information about setting up web logs (blogs) and video web logs (vlogs). The site has sections for parents and children in different age groups. The Cyber wellness section has details on how paedophiles 'groom' young people using the internet and offers advice on forming friendships online.

## **Safeguarding children in a digital world**

### ***Becta***

Having an internet safety co-ordinator in place and creating an acceptable use policy helps to equip teachers to address breaches of e-safety. This is according to research carried out on behalf of Becta by the University of Central Lancashire. Other findings show that breaches of e-safety are most likely to occur among older pupils in primary and secondary schools. The most common breach is the viewing of unsuitable online material. However, the research found that, where pupils were taught about e-safety, breaches of e-safety were reduced. These are just some of the findings of this research, which provides a strategic overview of e-safety issues and outlines a model for a co-ordinated approach by key stakeholders. The research, *E-safety: the experience in English educational establishments*, is based on a survey of over 400 schools and is available at <http://becta.org.uk/research/research.cfm?section=1&id=5005>.

## **Review your school's ICT performance**

### ***Becta***

Becta is developing a Self-Review Framework ([http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lp&catcode=le\\_sr\\_02](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lp&catcode=le_sr_02)) which offers the opportunity for schools to review and improve performance in using ICT. The Self-Review Framework should help to increase the number of schools making effective use of ICT to improve educational outcomes. To support this work, Becta has also developed an optional accreditation scheme, the ICT Mark. This will help schools to move forward in the knowledge that they are implementing recognised good practice. To make this as easy as possible, Becta is developing an online tool that helps schools to conduct a self-review, and to benchmark themselves alongside other schools. The choices they make will help to determine a personalised action plan for improvement. The tool will also offer access to a host of useful online resources.

## **Becta to review Microsoft licensing programmes**

### ***Becta***

Becta is conducting 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. It will consider the degree to which these meet the needs of UK schools and represent value for money. The review will also explore the total costs of exiting those licence agreements and the corresponding risks of 'lock-in'. Becta will also consider the educational advantages of schools adopting the updated versions of Microsoft products to be launched in 2006 (such as the proposed Vista Operating System, or the Office 12 suite). The report will also focus on ways to improve access to alternatives to Microsoft products to ensure that there is a freedom of choice. An interim report will be available by June 2006.

## **Improving home-school links**

### ***Becta***

Becta is reviewing software licensing and technical issues relating to home and school computer use. The review will analyse ways in which pupils and parents can acquire what they need to work on the same document on a home or school computer. It will also address compatibility issues when a home computer runs different software from that used at school. Becta will also explore the licensing implications when a pupil or a parent logs on to a school system, and uses applications on that system. An interim report should be available by August 2006.

## **E-mentoring scheme to be rolled out nationally**

### ***Becta***

The Specialist Schools and Academies' Trust (SSAT) piloted e-mentoring last summer with 1,000 students across 39 schools. After an evaluation, the DfES has funded a national -rollout for 500 schools which don't have to have SSAT status. If you would like to find out more, visit Schools Network: e-mentoring project at <http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/newtechnologies/e-mentoring/default.aspx>.

## **City goes for global message**

### ***NGfL***

An education adviser has launched a local project with an ambition - to take global student voice off flip-charts and into the 21st century.

John Bidder, adviser for ICT & Innovation in Bolton Local Authority, conceived 'WikiVille' in the autumn of 2005. His aim is for WikiVille to be largely run by young people whose mission it is to paint a picture of life for them in their part of town.

Participants so far hail from America, Australia, UK, Ireland and others. There are also hopes to develop links with the Far East.

Throughout the winter months, school representatives were recruited to form part of a core team for introductory training workshops, which has now been completed.

WikiVille is run using Wiki technology - the same system that runs Wikipedia. The "rules of engagement" with WikiVille have been established by the student contributors.

It is relevant for students at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, Post-16, as well as special needs. It is hoped that contributors will include peer groups, families, law enforcement, councillors and others.

For more details visit <http://www.wikiville.org.uk>.

### **Updated advice on ICT equipment safety**

#### **NGfL**

As the volume of information and communication technology (ICT) in classrooms grows, the impact on security in schools is becoming increasingly important.

The cost of thefts from schools is much more than simply replacing equipment, as damage to property, lost teaching time and resources must all be considered, as well as a rise in insurance premiums.

Projection equipment is the most highly sought-after component of an interactive whiteboard solution and it is strongly recommended that measures are taken to secure projectors.

The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta) has updated its advice on whiteboard and projector security.

It outlines how to improve projector and whiteboard security through securing the school and classroom perimeter, using existing projector security, providing additional security features for projectors or by utilising new security products.

Find details on the Becta website

[http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=te&catcode=as-pres\\_02&rid=10902&wn=1](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=te&catcode=as-pres_02&rid=10902&wn=1).

### **Learning and teaching using ICT**

#### **TeacherNet**

Looking for practical help to teach using ICT? Then visit learning and teaching using ICT - Practical Support Pack. The pack is a new area on TeacherNet, designed to help develop teaching practice using ICT. You'll find lesson plans, multimedia resources, video case studies and ICT support materials.

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

### **The Buckinghamshire Schools' Curriculum Technician Service**

#### *Mike Woods*

I have become increasingly aware that, as ICT resources in schools become both more numerous and more complex, many schools are finding some difficulty in obtaining a reliable and cost effective technical support service.

The new Buckinghamshire Schools' Curriculum Technician Service (BSCTS) is an on-site ICT Technician Service designed by a Becta Accredited ICT Service Supplier, XMA Ltd, in conjunction with the ICT Curriculum support Team. We have selected XMA through the Central Buying Consortium to ensure 'best value' for Buckinghamshire Schools.

Under BSCTS a qualified ICT technician will make regular visits to your school to help take problems of a technical nature away from your teachers and pupils so they can focus on teaching and learning. By taking up the Buckinghamshire Schools' Curriculum Technician Service you can focus on embedding ICT in the Curriculum in the knowledge that professionals are there to help you with any technical issues.

The service is offered at 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold and is designed to provide you with the service you need at a very affordable price. A leaflet detailing the BSCTS service is available as a PDF download at: <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=43>.

## **ICT Schools Team – Dell Battery Problem**

### ***Steve Rowland***

We have recently become aware that some of the Dell Latitude batteries that were supplied in the Latitude D505 and Latitude D510 are subject to a recall because they may catch fire. Please read the full details of which models and precisely which batteries are affected by going to the following web site:  
<http://www.dellbatteryprogram.com/Default.aspx>.

## **Primary News**

### **New guidance for Foundation Stage educators**

#### ***NGfL***

The curriculum authority has published guidance materials for those teaching information and communication technology (ICT) to young children.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) ICT Foundation Stage guidance materials contain short case studies with teacher guidance demonstrating how to use ICT purposefully at this crucial stage.

It covers three ICT stepping stones and the ICT early learning goals. The case studies focus on a range of ICT including music keyboards and programmable toys.

QCA has produced the following curriculum guidance documents:

- curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage
- planning for learning in the Foundation Stage
- seeing steps in children's learning.

Download a copy of the guidance from the website <http://www.qca.org.uk/223.html>.

### **New film website goes for star quality**

#### ***NGfL***

Film Street is a new website aimed at six- to nine-year-olds, designed to unlock imaginations, introduce the joys of film and encourage expression through filmmaking.

For use at school and at home, the site - due to launch in April 2006 - is planning interactive activities, movie-making ideas and advice. Youngsters will be able to log on, choose a character and stroll around the virtual street. They can explore a film studio, costume shop, cinema, library and film academy to learn about editing, animation and special effects.

A Film Street cinema previews the latest releases and showcases short films from around the world. Children can also submit and check out their own films. A 'Film Mag' will feature events, interviews and competitions.

The design will allow adults working with young children to get involved in and outside schools. A teacher/parent section will provide lesson and activity plans linked to the national curriculum, plus resources to download.

The website is the result of extensive research involving media educationalists and school practitioners. Special features mean that children with dyslexia, visual and motor impairments can use the site more easily.

First Light, a unit which has been supporting filmmaking with young people, developed the site, commissioned by Culture Online, part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Partner organisations include CBBC, the British Film Institute, the UK Film Council and Creative Partnerships.

The Film Street website is <http://www.filmstreet.co.uk>.

## **Tips on whiteboard strategy**

### **NGfL**

A new publication in the 'ICT Advice' series covers 'Teaching interactively with electronic whiteboards in the primary phase'.

This 36-page booklet from the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta) is a source of teaching ideas for using whiteboards effectively across the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculum.

It considers what interactive teaching and learning means, and what needs to be in place for this to happen.

Sections look at how an electronic whiteboard can support interactive teaching and learning, and offer strategies to carry this out.

Other topics include tips on modelling, demonstrating and annotating, and how whiteboard technology can enhance classroom discussion.

It is free and it can be downloaded from the Becta website as a PDF file  
[http://becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/documents/TIEW\\_Feb2006.pdf](http://becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/documents/TIEW_Feb2006.pdf).

## **Secondary News**

### **New guide tackles internet plagiarism**

#### **NGfL**

The Government's exam watchdog in England has published a new coursework guide for teachers to combat coursework cheating.

Last year the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) published 'A review of GCE and GCSE coursework arrangements', drawing on interviews with teachers, candidates and parents. It looked at the value of coursework, types of assignments, issues of authentication and detection of malpractice and confidence in marking.

The education secretary called for an urgent review, and the resulting guide offers practical advice to teachers and parents.

'Authenticating coursework: A teacher's guide' (<http://www.qca.org.uk/15994.html>) suggests ways in which they can ensure coursework that is submitted is a candidate's own work. It advises that teachers should familiarise themselves with sites which offer writing services so that they can more easily spot plagiarised work.

The document asks such questions as: "Are the spelling and structure consistent throughout the coursework?" Teachers should check for "inconsistencies" such as irregular font or margin size, and to compare carefully the standard of supervised and unsupervised work.

Where teachers have suspicions, they should ask the candidate oral questions or get them to acknowledge sources, before considering reporting concerns to the exam board. They also advise teachers to "highlight the deficiencies of online essay banks" and provide pupils with practical examples of good and bad referencing.

Candidates must sign a declaration saying that the work they are submitting is their own, and teachers must also declare they are confident the coursework is the child's own before submitting each piece to the moderator.

There is also an information leaflet for parents <http://www.qca.org.uk/15526.html>.

## **Plunge into a virtual marine project**

### **NGfL**

Join a virtual marine science expedition to the Red Sea in a new online environmental activity.

From 3 to 24 May 2006, schools from the UK, USA and Saudi Arabia are invited to visit the website of the Living Oceans Foundation.

The onboard field team has offered its services to communicate their daily research activities direct to school classrooms around the world. Pupils will be able to access near "real-time" scientific projects from the Golden Shadow, a 67-metre vessel. Daily "scientific diary entries" will be transmitted to the Living Oceans website as the research team maps the marine habitats.

The project will deliver content linked to the UK Key Stage 4 science curriculum and also offer a novel way for schools to deliver work-related learning. It highlights a simulated mechanism to deliver the applied learning required of the vocational GCSEs and for the forthcoming specialist diplomas.

The website will also host pages that outline key scientific personnel, display a virtual vessel and Q&A sessions.

Teacher resources offer links to other web sites, books, videos of relevance to marine sciences and conservation. The wider audience will consist of pupils studying a science curriculum, but could include geography and information and communication and technology (ICT) pupils. The project creates the potential for international school links.

Links to the Science in the Red Sea website will be available in April 2006 by visiting the Living Oceans Foundation website

[http://www.livingoceansfoundation.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=63&Itemid=121](http://www.livingoceansfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=63&Itemid=121).

## **Secondary leadership team toolkit**

### **NCSL**

Launched on 17 March 2006 at the ASCL National Conference in Birmingham, the secondary leadership team toolkit provides a range of practical tools to guide school leadership teams on how to lead the effective use of ICT across the curriculum. Designed to be flexible to meet the specific needs of each school, the toolkit aims to help you develop and communicate your vision, explore and plan different implementation strategies and review and evaluate progress.

#### *What is the toolkit?*

The secondary leadership team toolkit provides inspirational insight into 11 school journeys to enhance learning and teaching using ICT. The CD-ROM follows these journeys in more depth, with interviews from leaders at these schools discussing innovative and practical approaches to sustaining improvement and attainment.

The toolkit booklet features 11 case studies looking from different perspectives, discussing the latest thinking about extending learning beyond the school day, developing the 14-19 curriculum and personalising learning for all.

#### *Who is it for?*

School leaders: secondary headteachers, secondary management, leadership teams and department leaders.

School advisers: subject and strategy advisers, school improvement and other local authority advisers.

A preview of the case study booklet content is available at <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/media/F46/C2/slict-barking-claremont-casestudy-extracts.pdf>.

To order a copy of the toolkit, please contact the SLICT team at [slicteam@ncsl.org.uk](mailto:slicteam@ncsl.org.uk) and ask for the secondary leadership team toolkit, publication code PB99.

Find out more about the background to this project visit <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes/slict/slict-slitt-background.cfm>.

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## Subscription Details

### Becta/ ICT Advice

To subscribe to the various publications, click here:

[http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=nwslttr\\_index](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=nwslttr_index)

### 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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