

## e-Update April 2006

Welcome to the 16th 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

### **Self-review framework set to boost improvement through ICT**

#### ***Becta***

The end of March 2006 saw the launch of a new online tool designed to help schools to evaluate their use of ICT and plan future investment in development, at their own pace.

The self-review framework has been designed to enable head teachers and senior managers to take a whole-school approach to their use of ICT and to benchmark their performance against established best practice.

By adopting the framework, schools can make more effective use of ICT by enhancing the learning experience and ensuring that their investment is tied more closely to the achievement of organisational goals for attainment and performance.

Its development is the result of collaboration between Becta, Ofsted, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), the Training and Development Agency (TDA), the National College for School Leadership (NCSL), the National Strategies, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) and Naace alongside advice and guidance from a wider range of partners and stakeholders.

This close collaboration has resulted in a common language and a coherent approach to ICT improvement across the education sector which is helping schools embed the use of ICT in ways that will engage learners, support practitioners and accelerate improvement across all aspects of their operations.

Visit the self-review framework <http://matrix.becta.org.uk/selfreview>.

### **Macromedia School Site Licences**

#### ***Adobe***

Following our acquisition of Macromedia there seems to be a general misconception that the Studio 8 School Site license no longer exists. This is not the case and I am keen to let schools know this as soon as possible.

Adobe's Macromedia Studio 8 School Site License provides a rich combination of digital communication tools and resources to help schools enhance teaching, learning and communication across the school. The site license includes an integrated suite of market leading multimedia and web development tools, project-based curriculum, and professional development resources - all for one set price based on the size of the school.

The Studio 8 Site License includes the Digital Design Curriculum Guide, hands-on projects and activities to teach the web design and development process and to prepare students for the new Edexcel Diploma in Digital Applications.

The Studio 8 School Site License contains:

- Dreamweaver, Flash Professional, Fireworks, Contribute and FlashPaper
- Contribute Web Publishing System

For further product and pricing information please contact your local Authorised Education Reseller [www.adobe.co.uk/licensingcentres](http://www.adobe.co.uk/licensingcentres).

## Emerging technologies for learning

### **Becta**

This Becta publication reviews emerging technologies and some of the future trends that are likely to have an impact on education across all sectors.

The document aims to inform readers about the potential for technology to transform our ways of working, learning and interacting over the next three to five years. Existing innovation is also pointed to as strong examples of pushing the existing boundaries of technology.

The topics covered are:

- Mobile technologies: transforming the future of learning
- The ambient web
- The future of human-computer interaction
- Social networks
- The broadband home

See [http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/publications\\_detail.cfm?pubid=321](http://www.becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/publications_detail.cfm?pubid=321) to order this publication or download an electronic copy (PDF).

## Laptops for Teachers 2006 – special offer for Buckinghamshire LEA Schools

### **Steve Rowland, ICT Schools Team**

The ICT Schools Team are delighted to announce that we have successfully negotiated a special offer for Dell laptops. Primarily this will assist schools increase the number of laptops used by teachers but the offer could be used to purchase laptops for wider use within schools. Last year, those schools that purchased laptops in the summer term received the **best** price so it is strongly recommended that you make your decision now because the price after this date will be more expensive – last year the price rose by £200 a laptop.

As in previous years the Standards Fund grant includes a notional element for laptops for teachers. One of the national priorities for this grant continues to be:

*“Providing more teachers with access to personal laptops to allow flexible working inside and outside the school environment. Our target nationally is for two thirds of all teachers to have access by 2006”.*

This is the fifth year in which funding has been made available to support this initiative. You will recall that in years 1 and 2 the funding was not devolved to schools and the Authority purchased and distributed laptops on your behalf. In subsequent years the funding was devolved to schools. Last year, 110 schools made use of this facility and 459 laptops were purchased and distributed to schools. Other schools opted to make their own arrangements.

The specification will be very similar to last year with a Dell Latitude D510, Pentium 1.73GHz 2MB cache, 15” screen, 512MB memory, 40GB hard drive, 128MB USB key, **no floppy drive**, DVD/CDRW, 802.11b/g WiFi, XP Pro, Office 2003 Pro (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher), Sophos AntiVirus, 4 USB ports, **3 year on-site warranty**, 2 button optical scroll mouse, case, serial, Firewire and desktop expansion ports for **£639**. Please note that there is no “PS/2” port to connect old keyboards or mice, and no parallel port to connect old printers.

For schools with a Microsoft School Agreement including Office Pro, the cost would be reduced to £609. An additional charge of £15 per laptop will apply for schools that have not bought a Sophos site licence.

As last year we plan to complete deliveries to schools before the end of the Summer Term. In order to do this we will need confirmation of your interest before **Friday 26th May at the latest**. This year the Authority will place the order on your behalf and bill you directly, so a suitable “code” will be required or confirmation that you need an invoice, however, the new co-ordinated billing system will be used if possible. If you would

like to purchase laptops through the Authority please e-mail Linda Gardner ([lgardner@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:lgardner@buckscc.gov.uk)) stating clearly the name of the school, the number you wish to order and the charging details.

If you have any technical queries about the specification of the laptops please contact Karen Wilkinson, ICT Schools Team [kwilkinson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:kwilkinson@buckscc.gov.uk) 01296 383146.

### **SMART Board Software 9.5 released**

#### **SMART**

SMART Board software 9.5 is powerful, intuitive and easy to use with either Windows or Mac operating systems. If you've worked with SMART Board software before, you'll see that version 9.5 has the same interface and core features as earlier versions, with new tools and enhanced features to help you create, manage and present digital content. The following features are either new or improved:

#### **Notebook Software**

- Gallery search option
- SMART Essentials for Educators
- online resources
- video file integration
- audio file integration
- Flip Object tool
- Infinite Cloner tool
- scientific notation support
- superscript and subscript support
- Freehand Capture tool
- object link options
- more object lock options
- improved Full Screen view
- improved Screen Shade tool
- customizable toolbar
- import and export PowerPoint files
- enhanced HTML integration

#### **SMART Board Tools**

- improved Video Player
- Freehand Screen Capture tool
- improved Spotlight tool

#### **Support Resources**

- improved online Help

#### **Additional Items**

- new Notebook file extension
- over 30 language choices
- take-home privileges

Full details can be found at

<http://www.smarttech.com/Media/support/product/sbs/whatsnew/WhatsNew13Mar06.pdf>

You can download the SMART Board software at <http://www.smarttech.com/support/software/index.asp>.

**Note:** Buckinghamshire LEA users on County Broadband may need to download the ClipArt Gallery separately.

Alternatively, you can order a CD from SMART from the same page.

### **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2005/6 in Buckinghamshire**

#### **Andy Dickson**

The Buckinghamshire final for the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2005/6 took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at Manor Farm Junior School. Primary teams from Butlers Court, Chesham Bois CE Combined, Farnham Common Junior, High Wycombe CE Combined, Lent Rise Combined, Manor Farm Junior and Woodside Junior and a KS3 team from The Wye Valley School took part. It was an exciting afternoon with all of the children using their mathematical skills and working hard in preparing their cars for the 59 lap race

around the Austrian A1 Ring motor circuit. All of the children had fun and the race at the end of the afternoon was very exciting.

The Buckinghamshire Primary winner is **Woodside Junior School**. The secondary winner is **The Wye Valley School**. Congratulations to both schools. Both teams have had their cars submitted for the national semi finals and we wish them the best of luck.

### **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2006/7 in Buckinghamshire**

**Andy Dickson**

The Buckinghamshire final for 2005/6 may have only just taken place but now it's time to start thinking about the 2006/7 Challenge!

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge has now become well established in the calendars of many schools across the UK as a way of engaging children of all ages in an exciting and motivating mathematics based project that is suitable for all ages from 10 upwards.

The Challenge is based on Cambridgeshire Software House's 'Cars Maths in Motion' software and is sponsored by Jaguar, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, Quizdom, Texas Instruments, the TES, Economatics, Swallow Systems and the Specialist Schools Trust.

The Challenge involves students, aged 10 to 16, working together in small teams to design a virtual racing car using mathematics. These teams ultimately compete against each other in an effort to win a series of Grand Prix type races to get through to the National Final. Both boys and girls will rediscover the delights of long division, long multiplication, percentages, the measuring of angles with protractors, ratio and a whole lot more besides. A full list of what is covered can be found on the Challenge website <http://www.mathschallenge.org.uk>.

The aim of the Challenge is to help raise standards of achievement in mathematics in all schools and to demonstrate that mathematics is not only a useful skill to have but one that can be fun and stand students in good stead throughout life.

The 2006/07 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2005/06 Challenge:

Age Range 1: Any child of Primary School age.

Age Range 2: Any child in years 7, 8 and 9.

Age Range 3: Any child in years 10 and 11.

The Challenge is run through a national network of Lead Centres. The ICT Curriculum Support Team is the Lead Centre for Buckinghamshire LEA Schools.

Each participating school, whether Primary or Secondary, will run a series of internal races to find its own winner who will take part in a Buckinghamshire Regional Heat in March/April 2007. The Buckinghamshire Regional Heat winner will then race with other Regional Heat winners in a knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June/July 2007.

A leaflet with information on the Maths Challenge including pricing and an order form for the Cars: Maths in Motion software has been sent to all Buckinghamshire LEA schools. It is also available on ICT Curriculum Support Team's website <http://www.bucksict.org.uk> and on the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge section on the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=127>

Any Buckinghamshire LEA Schools who would like to be involved in the Maths Challenge should contact Andy Dickson, tel. 01296 428402, email [adickson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

### **Websites of the Month**

#### **FreeMind**

FreeMind is a free mind-mapping software, or a tree editor written in Java. You can use FreeMind to create foldable trees of plain text notes, enriched with colours, icons, cloud-shapes, and other graphics. Folding and breadth-width search make it valuable as a knowledge base tool. It can be almost fully controlled by keyboard.

URL: [http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

### **BBC: School Games Machine**

The School Games Machine website provides a range of resources for students aged 4-16+. Students can browse the site by age and subject or they can choose a random game. Curriculum areas covered include; geography, history, languages, English, maths, science and the arts.

URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/games/>

### **Geosense**

Geosense is an online, one-two player geography game. Learners compete against each other or alone to place a city on a world map as quickly and accurately as they can.

URL: <http://www.geosense.net/>

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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=nwsltr\\_index](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=nwsltr_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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