

e-Update June 2006

Welcome to the 18th 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 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

Public information films made available

Becta

To celebrate its 60th anniversary, the Central Office of Information (COI) is making public information films dating back to 1945 available through the National Archives.

This gives teachers the opportunity to download some great digital media for teaching a range of issues from the 20th Century.

These are available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/>.

InfoMapper offer to Buckinghamshire LEA Schools

InfoMapper

Schools in Buckinghamshire are currently able to buy InfoMapper at a reduction of 60% i.e. Primary £80 and Secondary £240. If schools buy InfoMapper before 31st August they will also receive the special offer of 15 months for the price of 12! InfoMapper can be purchased with eLCs.

- There are currently 380 free layers created by other teachers for you to use
- Teachers can now get Free Home Access to InfoMapper
- InfoMapper is about to include: Thematic mapping tools, street-level mapping for the whole of Europe and Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of the UK

A demonstration of InfoMapper can be seen at:

<http://www.webbased.co.uk/infomapper/demonstration.php?whatis=1&demonstration=1&topmenu=1>

InfoMapper can be purchased by visiting:

<http://www.webbased.co.uk/infomapper/purchaseim.php?purchase=1&topmenu=3>

RM ClassBoards for Sale

Bedgrove Junior School

After 6th July, Bedgrove Junior School will have 4 RM ClassBoards surplus to requirements. They are all in full working order and come with RM InterWrite software.

The school is asking for £250 for each board or £1000 for all four.

Any school who may be interested is welcome to come to Bedgrove Junior to see them up and working (and have a demonstration / use them etc.) before the 6th, July when they will be taken down.

Further information / queries can be directed to Mr. D. Candelori (ICT Manager) Bedgrove Junior School, by email ictmanager@bedgrovejunior.bucks.sch.uk.

Becta streamlines online publications

Becta

As part of an ongoing review of its services for schools, and with the aim of making it quicker and easier for schools to find the advice they need, Becta is streamlining its online services to provide fewer but better targeted websites and electronic publications. As a result, Becta's online publications will be replaced with one newsletter, which will focus on whole-school improvement through a process of supported self-review. The final issues of the primary and secondary online magazines are now available to view, and will remain available for about six months.

ICT in Primary online magazine can be found at:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=nwsltr_index&ictypeid=1&icteditionid=22.

The magazine includes:

News

- **Becta launches the Self-Review Framework for schools:** A new online tool from Becta designed to help schools evaluate their use of ICT and plan future investment
- **BETT Awards 2007:** Nominate your favourite ICT product
- **Central Office of Information:** 60th Anniversary of the Central Office of Information

Focus on...

- **Using ICT to support speaking and listening with young EAL learners:** How ICT can support communication between EAL learners
- **Developing Primary Languages:** Details of a range of stimulating courses abroad for teachers
- **Helping pupils in their quest for knowledge:** Webquests - enquiry-based activities - can be used to good effect in RE

Across the school

- **Improve your school's ICT performance:** Using Becta's Self-Review Framework to improve your school's use of ICT
- **Free resources where you least expect them:** Software publishers' websites can offer support when you need it
- **Primary websites:** Discover a great search tool for children to use

ICT in Secondary online magazine can be found at:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=nwsltr_ictsecondary&ictypeid=2&icteditionid=21.

This magazine includes:

News

- **Becta launches the Self-Review Framework for schools:** A new online tool from Becta designed to help schools evaluate their use of ICT and plan future investment
- **BETT Awards 2007:** Nominate your favourite ICT product
- **Jamestown Journey:** The British perspective on the 1607 American settlement in Virginia

Focus on...

- **Art and design:** Photo-blogging for peer assessment and assessment for learning
- **Citizenship:** The European Convention on CD-ROM
- **Design and technology:** Resources toolbox - reviews of planning, management and design materials
- **EAL:** Teaching EAL with multi-sensory ICT
- **English:** The power of the blog
- **Geography:** Learning locally using online census data
- **History:** Using mobile phones to turn pupils into virtual museum curators
- **Mathematics:** Maths plus spreadsheets - suggestions for teaching maths and spreadsheets at the same time
- **Modern foreign languages:** Using the internet for real language activities
- **Music:** Girl power - getting girls to engage with ICT in music
- **Physical education:** Identifying sporting strengths - a system that assesses the sporting areas in which students could specialise
- **Religious education:** Promoting community cohesion through RE
- **Science:** Science on the big screen - using a digital camera and a data projector for demonstrations and experiments
- **14-19:** Teacher-created resources for vocational education
- **Across the School:** Sustaining ICT investment - practical ideas for keeping on top of new technology and computer-to-pupil ratios

If you are interested in finding out more about the Self-Review Framework and subscribing to the update newsletter, visit the Self-Review Framework area of the Becta Schools website <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=srf>.

Becta's Learning Platform Functionality Matrix

Becta

The Learning Platform Functionality Matrix (<http://matrix.becta.org.uk>) has been developed as a response to the recently published Learning Platform Functional Requirements (<http://industry.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=17320&page=1628&catID=1737>). These requirements are integral to the learning platform procurement framework that Becta is currently establishing, to be launched in early January 2007.

The matrix presents these requirements in an accessible way by using language and examples that are relevant and appropriate at institutional level. The emphasis of the tool is away from labels and acronyms (MLEs, VLEs, LMSs etc.) and towards recognisable functional requirements. It will help schools and institutions evaluate their ICT maturity and capabilities by assessing what their present deployment of learning platform technologies currently enables them to achieve. The outcome is a suggested action plan which provides senior management with a strategic road map to help inform and support their vision for the future.

The matrix is best completed by LAs/RBCs and head teachers, with the support and collaboration of SMTs, ICT coordinators, teachers, and governors as appropriate.

Note: Buckinghamshire is currently running pilots using a VLE called **Moodle**. If you are on County Broadband and are interested in participating, please contact Ian Usher, e-Learning Co-ordinator on 01296 382038 or iusher@buckscc.gov.uk.

Laptop Offer Extended – Buckinghamshire LEA Schools

ICT Schools Team

The ICT Schools Team are delighted to announce the closing date for orders for this year's Laptops for Teachers Offer has been extended to 7th July 2006, but we still hope that delivery will be completed by the end of term.

The laptop on offer has been upgraded to the new Dell Latitude D520, with Intel "Core Duo" 1.83GHz processors, 512MB memory & 40GB disk.

Also included: 128MB USB key, DVD/CDRW, 802.11b/g WiFi ("802.11n ready"), 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. All for £639. Please note that there is no floppy drive, no "PS/2" port to connect old keyboards or mice, and no parallel port to connect old printers. This reflects a saving of £180 from our normal discounted price.

This year the Authority will place the order on your behalf and bill you directly, so a suitable "code" will be required, 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) 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 01296 383146.

Secondary News

Diploma in Digital Applications takes off

Becta

Take-up of the free online courseware for the Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDa) (<http://dida.nwlg.org>) is growing steadily. The course materials, developed by a consortium led by the North West Grid for Learning, now include a game environment to deliver content. Teachers of the 14-19 age group who are planning to implement the course are considering the implications of a resource that offers learners the possibility of studying and being assessed at a pace that suits them.

Learners may finish units more quickly than expected, going on to gain the equivalent of perhaps two GCSEs instead of one. However, the main aim of the courseware is to help embed ICT across the curriculum

as a functional skill, and to demonstrate the viability of materials provided via the National Education Network <http://industry.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=14600>.

Becta is keen to hear from teachers who are using this courseware. Please contact Becta's 14-19 team on 14-19@ferl.becta.org.uk if you wish to be included.

Learning Resource Kit

Becta

This is a completely free tool to help secondary schools manage their resources (books, software, classroom equipment and so on) more effectively. Through self-evaluation, logging evidence and target-setting, schools will become more proficient at planning, choosing and using their resources – with clear practical benefits for teaching and learning in the classroom and for budgets. <http://www.learningresourcekit.co.uk/>

Subscription Details

Becta

To subscribe to the various publications, click here:

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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