

## **e-Update September 2006**

Welcome to the 20th 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**

### **BETT 2007**

#### ***BETT***

BETT is the world's leading educational ICT event, attracting over 600 educational suppliers and over 28000 visitors, and bringing together the global teaching and learning community for four days of innovations and inspirations.

BETT 2007 is the place to see exciting ideas, the latest technology, practical solutions that can have an immediate impact, and new ways to put ICT at the heart of education.

It is the only opportunity in the education calendar where you can see, touch and experience the best ICT products from the broadest range of educational ICT suppliers anywhere.

BETT 2007 is 10-13 January at Olympia in London. More details can be found at <http://www.bettshow.com> where you can also register for free to attend.

### **Create-A-Scape website**

#### ***Futurelab***

Create-A-Scape is a new website that provides free resources to enable teachers and pupils to create digitally-enhanced, personalised learning experiences, using HP's Mediascape authoring toolkit.

Mediascapes are a potentially powerful way of engaging with the world around us. Using PDAs they offer new opportunities to explore and interact with the landscape in exciting and varied ways. The Create-A-Scape website project aims to offer the inspiration for teachers and pupils to start using mediascapes, and to provide easy-to-use guides and free software to help make mediascape creation as simple and accessible as possible.

For more information see [http://www.futurelab.org.uk/showcase/create\\_a\\_scape/index.htm](http://www.futurelab.org.uk/showcase/create_a_scape/index.htm) and visit the website at <http://www.createascape.org.uk/>.

### **Becta's Infrastructure Services Framework**

#### ***Becta***

The new procurement Framework (<http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/infrastructureservices>) is now live and available for the purchase of high quality ICT Infrastructure Services. The Services will enable Schools (<http://www.schools.becta.org.uk/index.php>) to establish ICT capable of delivering to the needs of learners both now and in the future.

The EU-approved procurement framework aims to raise standards and save £millions by offering Services for Infrastructure design, hardware and software acquisition, technical support, maintenance, training and implementation.

All services conform to the standards and specifications (<http://www.schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&rid=11279>) set out in Becta's National Digital Infrastructure ([http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lp&catcode=\\_le\\_pp\\_po\\_03&rid=10059](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lp&catcode=_le_pp_po_03&rid=10059)) and a network of sixteen educational suppliers have been approved to deliver them. The successful suppliers were approved through a unique six month evaluation programme which covered technical, commercial, value-for-money and quality assurance aspects of their business.

The framework encourages Local Authorities to act as procurement aggregators and to purchase the ICT services through a mini-competition on behalf of a number of educational institutions. Purchasing in this way will increase value for money and reduce the administrative burden which can otherwise affect individual purchases.

There has been full collaboration between Becta and Partnerships for Schools when considering how the Becta Infrastructure Services Framework will operate alongside the established Building Schools of the Future approach.

The Framework has been operational since 8th August and will be formally launched at a meeting of suppliers on Friday 29th September.

More information:

Register your interest in Infrastructure Services: <http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/infrastructureservices>  
National Digital Infrastructure: <http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/infrastructure>  
Procurement: <http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/procurement>

### **Windows 98/98SE and ME support ends**

#### ***Becta***

Schools with old PC equipment running earlier versions of the Windows operating system are warned that Microsoft has finally ended free public support for its aging Windows 98, Windows 98SE and Windows ME software. Online support will be available until at least July 2007 but there will be no further security updates or patches from the software company. Microsoft typically offers 8-10 years minimum overall support for products including a number of years full support followed by a further period of self-help.

<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifean18>

Later this year Microsoft will end support, including security updates for Windows XP SP1. From October 10, 2006 customers will be expected to upgrade to Windows XP Service Pack 2 which was released initially in September 2004. <http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifean19>

Microsoft do offer longer term support for older applications under specific agreements and licences.

### **New ICT Co-ordinators' Meeting**

#### ***ICT Curriculum Support Team***

On 13th November there will be a meeting for new ICT Co-ordinators in Buckinghamshire Schools. This will take place at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden. There will be lunch available from 12 noon and the meeting will run from 1 – 4 pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Karen Fagan on 01296 428402.

### **SMART Board Software Updated**

#### ***ICT Curriculum Support Team***

SMART have recently released Service Pack 3 for the current version 9.5 of their SMART Board software. This allows you to update your existing installation of SMART 9.5 and provides some bug fixes from earlier releases.

If you are running an earlier version of the SMART Board software (e.g. 9.1, 9.0 or earlier) then 9.5 adds a range of useful new features and additional clipart and interactive resources.

The full version of SMART 9.5 and Service Pack 3 can be downloaded from [http://www.smarttech.com/support/software/sb\\_win.asp](http://www.smarttech.com/support/software/sb_win.asp).

**Note:** For BucksGfL Broadband schools, it will be necessary to download the Gallery Collections separately. These are also available from this web page. Also if you have an earlier version of the SMART Board software you will need to uninstall this before installing the latest version.

### **Autumn Focus Evenings** **ICT Curriculum Support Team**

There are two ICT focus evenings this term at the Teaching and Learning Centre.

The first is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 4.15 – 5.30 pm where Logotron will be hosting a Creative and Visual Learning Session Using Revelation Sight & Sound and Thinking with Pictures.

The second is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 4.15 – 5.30 pm where Primary ViewPoint will be demonstrating their resources for Science at KS1.

Further details on these and how to book can be found at  
<http://www.bucksict.org.uk/SchoolSupport/Focus.htm>.

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

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2006/7 has now begun and several Buckinghamshire schools have just had training on the Cars Maths in Motion software.

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 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@bucksgfl.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@bucksgfl.gov.uk).

## Secondary News

### 14-19 and Digital Technologies: A review of research and projects

*Becta*

This detailed research report from Futurelab gives an exhaustive account of the background to 14-19 reform and the ways in which technologies can drive and support it.

[http://www.futurelab.org.uk/research/reviews/reviews\\_13/13\\_01.htm](http://www.futurelab.org.uk/research/reviews/reviews_13/13_01.htm)

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## Subscription Details

### Becta

To subscribe to the various publications, click here: [Becta Schools Subscription Services](#)

### 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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