

e-Update October 2006

Welcome to the 21st 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

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.

Becta launch Infrastructure Framework for suppliers

On 29th September Becta formally launched its new Infrastructure Services Framework for 16 educational ICT suppliers.

The Infrastructure services framework provides a comprehensive supplier network to deliver high quality ICT solutions and services to education. Services available through the framework include system design, hardware and software provision, training, implementation and ongoing technical support.

The Becta framework is EU compliant, which means local authorities and educational institutions are free to conduct a mini competition among approved suppliers, reducing the cost and time of a full procurement. All services meet Becta's standards and specifications for Institutional Infrastructure and suppliers are monitored to maintain a high quality of service.

The 16 suppliers are:

Azzurri Communications Ltd
Centerprise International Ltd
Computer Systems in Education Ltd
Egton Medical Information Systems Ltd
Ergo Computing UK Ltd
European Electronique Ltd
Gaia Technologies Plc
HBS Business Services Group Ltd
Linetex Computers Ltd
Northgate Information Solutions Ltd
Ramesys
Research Machines Plc (also known as RM)
Serco
Stone Computers Ltd
VT Four S Ltd
XMA Limited

These companies had to clearly demonstrate their capability of providing Infrastructure services to educational institutions through an intensive evaluation programme covering technical, commercial, value-for-money and quality assurance elements.

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.

Becta Chief Executive, Stephen Crowne, commented: "This new framework is a key step in Becta's efforts to secure quality, consistency and value for money for schools and colleges. It will give education institutions greater peace of mind when developing their use of technology. They can be confident that these suppliers will provide affordable, reliable and coherent products which are sustainable over the longer term."

"The launch is an opportunity for us to meet the successful suppliers, emphasise the high expectations that we have of them and congratulate them on their achievement."

For more details of the Infrastructure Services Framework visit:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=pr&catcode=ss_to_pr_cp_infr_04

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.

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.

Note: The initial release of this was removed temporarily from SMART's website due to some problems with it. SMART have now corrected these and full version and SP3 are now available again.

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.

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@buckscc.gov.uk.

Becta's Self Review Framework for ICT **Becta**

The self-review framework is an online tool which enables schools to assess and benchmark their use of ICT across all their activities. It enables schools to identify where they are, and shows the practical steps they can take to improve their ICT use to benefit the organisation. In many areas, it complements the work schools currently undertake for Ofsted's Self Evaluation Framework.

The self-review framework comprises eight elements; these elements cover the whole development of ICT across the school and enables the organisation to assess itself against the following elements.

- Leadership and Management
- Curriculum
- Learning & Teaching
- Assessment
- Professional Development
- Extending Opportunities for Learning
- Resources
- Impact on Pupil Outcomes

This process when completed will yield a summary of the school's current standing and give actions to progress further in their use of ICT.

The self-review framework 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. By being developed in partnership, Becta's self-review framework uses a common language and approach agreed across Government agencies and departments.

The self review matrix can be found at <http://matrix.becta.org.uk>.

Self Review Framework – Update

Becta

For anyone who has not recently looked at the self-review framework, guidance is now available for every strand of the elements. The guidance will be helpful for schools to understand the elements. It consists of an overview of the strand, questions for schools to consider and if available, further sources of information. Look out for the 'Read the guide to this strand' link which is situated under each strand title.

The self-review framework can be found at <http://www.matrix.becta.org.uk>.

Teaching with Games report

Futurelab

Commercial computer games have the potential to support learning in schools, and teachers don't need to be games experts to use them effectively for teaching. These are some of the findings of the Teaching with Games research project. A final report is now online, outlining the context, objectives, methods, findings and key messages arising from the project.

<http://www.futurelab.org.uk/research/teachingwithgames/findings.htm>.

Primary News

New Resource to support the Self Review Framework

Becta

A new publication is now available which will help schools address how the self-review framework supports the current Primary National Strategy priorities for learning and teaching using ICT. The publication will be promoted to schools through the National Primary Strategy consultants, who have received copies of this publication. If you would like to see this publication or order your own copy, please go to

<http://becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/>.

The new RM Multicoloured Lowercase Keyboard is here

RM

The long awaited RM Multicoloured Lowercase Keyboard is here! With multicoloured keys for easy differentiation between characters, numbers, punctuation and function buttons.

Dual-case characters help children type easily during the transition between lower and upper case letters. The keyboard also features Quiet Key operation to minimise noise and disruption to lessons.

<http://www.rm.com/primary/products/product.asp?cref=pd713041&Referrer=EBS&nref=ENL759541&nsid=167818>

Secondary News

Free weather DVD for schools

Met Office

The ideal addition to classroom teaching of the weather could be on its way to your school – and it's free!

A brand new DVD, 'Weatherbytes', is now available from the Met Office. The DVD has been produced for teachers and students and is presented by well-known national television forecaster Martyn Davies.

The DVD contains five short films covering the key weather topics of air masses, hurricanes, precipitation, weather fronts and depressions, by making extensive use of weather graphics and video footage.

The presentations are aimed at students of Geography at GCSE and A-level, whilst providing a refresher of material for teachers of meteorology.

To order your copy, just complete the online form at
<http://www.metoffice.com/education/resources/weatherbytes.html>.

Key stage 3 ICT test – NAA materials help schools prepare **DfES**

The National Assessment Agency (NAA) will shortly be launching new materials to help all schools to achieve success in the 2007 full national KS3 ICT pilot between 30 April and 25 May 2007.

The materials include a new termly newsletter 'Countdown', which contains important information about the new Key Stage 3 ICT test. Each issue will provide a broad overview of what SLTs need to do to prepare for the onscreen tests, together with some helpful hints. Watch out for your copies arriving this week.

The NAA are also producing an 'essential guide' which will help schools prepare for the key stage 3 ICT test which will be arriving at the end of October. This guide has specific content for the SLT, ICT subject leader, network manager and test administrators.

The 'essential guide' is based on real school experience and includes: clear role definitions; hints and tips; checklists and strategies for challenging situations.

Register your interest to get involved in the 2007 pilot:
<http://www.rm.com/qca/mainpage.asp?contentref=QCAP151293>

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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