

e-Update December 2006

Welcome to the 23rd 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

BucksGfL, Moodle and Gigajam

Mike Woods

This information is an extract from a mailing which is currently being sent to all schools. If you would like to access the other documents in this mailing please go to:

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/mod/resource/view.php?id=4775>

Almost 90% of Buckinghamshire schools are now part of BucksGfL, but if you haven't joined yet **there is still time** as the DfES has recently **extended the deadline** for schools wishing to sign up to BucksGfL broadband. If you are interested please contact me for more information as soon as possible.

The DfES has recently given local authorities targets to ensure *"that by spring 2008 all schools have available to them a learning platform service with at least core functionality and that every school learner in England will have access to a personalised online learning space with the potential to support e-portfolios"*. The **BucksGfL Moodle VLE** already provides better than the DfES specified core functionality and will also be developed in the near future to provide all users with an effective online learning space. If you would like to be part of the further development of our VLE implementation then please make sure that you read the enclosed Moodle information.

Schools across Buckinghamshire have recently gained access to **Gigajam's** Essential Skills Courses for guitar, bass, keyboards and drums, giving thousands of students the opportunity to use ICT to help them learn a musical instrument. In addition to the thirty primary, secondary and special schools taking part in an innovative distance learning project using Gigajam software via BucksGfL broadband technology, **all BucksGfL Broadband schools** have free access to the first five Gigajam lessons for each instrument. Schools are able to access the content through the Bucks Grid for Learning VLE and pupils can also access the Gigajam content from home, enabling true 'anytime anywhere' learning. Log on to: <http://gigajam.bucksgfl.org.uk/> using your BucksGfL username and password (the one you use to check your BucksGfL email) to access the lessons and download the software.

The year's FREE subscription to '**Espresso**' multimedia content rich learning resources (including a free Espresso twilight training session at your school) which is provided as part of your subscription to **BucksGfL Broadband** has now been enhanced by the addition of the facility to allow teachers to access Espresso from home. Just go to <http://espresso.bucksgfl.org.uk/> and log in with your BucksGfL user name and password.

A date for your diary!

Mike Woods

The **2007 Buckinghamshire ICT Conference** with the theme '**Creativity and Innovation in ICT**' will be held at the Civic Centre in Aylesbury on **Thursday 22nd February**. This FREE event provided by the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team aims to be Buckinghamshire's own mini "BETT" show and will feature a large exhibition of ICT hardware and software, together with sessions to allow you to share in

some of the best practice in ICT in Buckinghamshire schools. I will be sending out an invitation to all schools containing further details in the near future.

OneStopEducation.co.uk – discounted software for Buckinghamshire Schools

Mike Woods

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has recently teamed up with OneStopEducation.co.uk to enable you to buy e-learning resources from software publishers such as 4Mation, Crick Software, Granada Learning (which includes SEMERC and BlackCat), Inclusive Technology, Logotron, Resource, Sherston, Storm, and Topologika online at an amazing **23% discount!** There are also discounts of up to 10% on a range of other software, and they can all be purchased through the portal you will find at:

<http://www.onestopeducation.co.uk/buckinghamshire>

Please Note: Software from **2Simple** is not available through the OneStopEducation portal but can still be ordered at a **20% discount** through the ICT Curriculum Support Team (please contact Karen Fagan on 01296 428402 for further details).

ICT Schools Team – Remote Backup Service

Steve Rowland, ICT Schools Team

We are delighted to announce that following some extremely successful testing, the ICT Schools Team are now in a position to offer BucksGfL schools a remote backup service. This will enable schools to backup their admin and curriculum data to a central server, eliminating the need for backup tapes. The backups will be scheduled to run overnight, and the admin backups will be monitored by ICT Schools Team (PC Support) – an email will be sent to the school if the backup fails. Curriculum backups will be monitored by the schools.

Schools can choose to buy into the service for their admin network, curriculum network, or both. The service is offered on a three year contractual basis with the annual charges shown below. We have however managed to secure funding which enables us to offer schools the backup service free of charge for the admin network up until October 2007, with years two and three chargeable.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please complete the acceptance form. ICT Schools team are able to install the necessary software on your admin server at no cost to the school. Please note that in requesting this, you are giving permission for us to access your admin server remotely, but purely for the purpose of installing the backup software.

Schools wishing to install the software themselves will need to contact ICT Schools Team for instructions. Full technical support for the admin systems will be provided as part of the Gold or Silver packages.

All schools wishing to buy into the backup service for their curriculum network will be required to install the software themselves, using instructions and telephone support which will be provided.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Celia Collicott on 01494 540204.

Primary and Special	
Admin (up to 10GB storage capacity) - free until October 2007	£140 + 10p per pupil
Curriculum (up to 30GB storage capacity)	£220 + 20p per pupil
Secondary	
Admin (up to 30GB storage capacity) - free until October 2007	£150 + 15p per pupil
Curriculum - 2 servers (up to 100GB storage capacity overall)	£470 + 20p per pupil
Additions	
Additional server	£160
Additional plugin eg Exchange	£30
Additional 10GB storage	£20
Additional 25GB storage	£50

Becta New Publications

Becta

There are a number of new publications now available to order or download from the Becta publications website at <http://becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/> including:

The self-review framework: eight elements

This leaflet visually lists the eight elements and the strands in each one. It is intended to aid introductory discussion about the framework, and act as an aid memoir.

Harnessing technology - the role of leaders

This publication sets out the current thinking around the delivery requirements of the e-strategy and how leaders can become involved.

Making a difference with technology for learning: evidence for school leaders

Increasingly, research evidence demonstrates the role that technology has to play in delivering benefits for schools and for learners. Here Becta presents the research evidence that every school leader needs to know.

ICT Excellence Awards 2006: transforming schools through ICT

Read about the exemplary winning schools and learning centres awarded in the 2006 ICT Excellence Awards.

Please note that due to high demand the publication entitled ***Guidance for Leaders*** has been reprinted. Although the content of the publication is the same the title has been changed to ***'Ways to use the self-review framework'***. This publication is available to order or download from the website mentioned above.

School improvement through ICT – guidance for governors

Becta

The National Governors Association (NGA), with support from Becta, have produced an eight page leaflet which is being posted to the Chair of Governors at every English maintained school. The publication reminds Governing bodies that they are responsible for promoting high standards of educational achievement and suggests that governors need to be able to monitor whether the school is using ICT effectively without ICT specialists on the governing body. Issues such as Value for Money, Personalised learning, Management and Leadership, Training and ICT Safety are outlined.

In particular the publication summarises the part that Becta's self-review framework can play in helping governors and school leaders make best use of the ICT in the school.

Copies should be ordered directly from NGA (National Governors' Association, 2nd Floor, SBQ1, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham, B5 4HG. A pdf copy can be downloaded directly from http://www.tmmuk.com/ngc/document_link.asp?id=98

What is Web 2.0?

Andy Dickson

Have you heard the term "Web 2.0" mentioned but have no idea what it means?

Web 2.0 refers to a supposed second generation of Internet-based services – such as social networking sites, wikis, communication tools, and folksonomies – that emphasize online collaboration and sharing among users. A full explanation of Web 2.0 (including what social networking sites, wikis and folksonomies are too!) can be found on Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0.

Examples of Web 2.0 applications include [Google Docs and Spreadsheets](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#) and [del.icio.us](#). [Moodle](#), the VLE provided to all schools on BucksGfL Broadband at no extra cost is also Web 2.0, or rather a number of modules in it provide Web 2.0 functionality within the integrated VLE, for example there's support for podcasts, RSS, wikis, blogs and folksonomy tagging, and Moodle's Workshop module provides an effective way of managing peer assessment of students' work.

There's even an advent calendar you can look at to find out about more Web 2.0 technologies at <http://www.rsc-yh.ac.uk/advent/>.

The Internet is changing and Web 2.0 is on the way. At least now you have an idea of what it is!

Primary News

Primary FITS to go live

Becta

The Framework for ICT Technical Support in Primary Schools (Primary FITS) will go live on the Becta website on Friday 8 December. Primary FITS is an easy-to-follow, proven method of managing ICT in primary, special and nursery schools. It includes descriptions of what needs to be done and why, and an

implementation plan to help schools get the best possible outcome. The materials will be prepared and delivered to schools by ICT service providers. The benefits for schools include:

- Greater ICT reliability and user confidence
- Better understanding of school ICT management responsibilities Improved management of technicians
- Proactive and planned ICT management
- Schools can identify areas for improvement
- More networking between schools

Benefits for service providers include:

- Improved communication and relationship with schools
- Improved efficiency of technicians
- Technicians have more time to be proactive
- Provides a baseline for technicians' work
- Schools better understand what technicians need to do

Further information on all FITS projects is available at <http://becta.org.uk/fits/>

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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