

e-Update January 2007

Welcome to the 24th 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**.

ICT in Buckinghamshire schools – BucksGfL, Moodle & Gigajam

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

As we start a New Year there are several exciting developments across a range of ICT initiatives in Buckinghamshire that I would like to share with you, not least the further growth in the number of schools using the BucksGfL Moodle VLE and the roll out of the 'Gigajam Project'.

I have produced separate information sheets about these developments to make it easier for you to distribute them to interested colleagues in your school and you will find copies of the documents on the BucksGfL website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=165>.

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 contact me.

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, ICT Adviser

The **2007 Buckinghamshire ICT Conference** with the theme '**Creativity and Innovation in ICT**' will be held at the Civic Hall 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.

Discounted Software for Buckinghamshire LEA Schools

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

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, 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).

Recent internet access failure that affected all Bucks schools and Adult Learning

Mike Woods

In common with other Learning Grids that are part of the South East Grid for Learning, BucksGfL is part of the SuperJanet National Education Network (the network that connects all Universities and most other learning institutes across the UK). Unfortunately on 10th January 2007 at 1100h the 100mb/s UKERNA internet service to the SuperJanet Network failed. BT eventually resolved the problem but our service was not restored until 2320h on Thursday 11th January - a downtime of over 36 hours. This service failure followed a major internet incident on Wednesday 9th January in one of the London core internet centres affecting most schools in the South East of England.

We would like to apologise for the major disruption this must have caused to planned activities in the many schools and adult learning establishments that now make very full use of BucksGfL and material from the internet. We have lodged a formal complaint with UKERNA over the extended time taken to fix this failure and will be putting a strategy in place at the earliest opportunity to ensure that we never suffer from a repeat of this situation again.

Upgrading Sophos

Karen Wilkinson, ICT Schools Team

On Thursday 21 December 2006 we upgraded the central Sophos server to the latest version. As part of this, the new version 6 client is available. Any systems currently running version 5 (Blue shield icon) will be automatically upgraded, generally without the user noticing anything different, except that it will take longer - depending on the Internet connection speed. Any systems still running version 3 (Blue Daisy icon) will fail to update, and must be manually upgraded to version 5 before that date. Notes can be found in the 'My School' area of the SchoolsWeb.

Sophos will be ceasing any support or updates for version 3 and "Enterprise Manager Library v1.1" software on 28 February 2007. Version 5 and Enterprise Manager Library v1.2 will reach their end of life on 30 June 2007. Upgrades to version 6 and Enterprise Manager Library v1.3 are free for any school that has bought a license (site or individual system) from us.

It would be advisable to install the latest Microsoft "Service Pack" before upgrading Sophos because unless it is the latest version, Sophos will not work. Installing the "Service Pack" is advisable for other reasons as well. It is also advisable to check that Sophos is updating regularly.'

Systems still running Windows 98 or NT4 will need to have Sophos v4.5 as version 6 is for W2K and beyond. Version 4.5 will only be supported until 31/12/2008.

The updated version of Sophos v6 has the added facility of Adware - Prevent Unwanted Applications.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the ICT Schools Team on 01494 540202.

BETT Awards 2007 - The Winners

BETT

The winners of the prestigious BETT Awards 2007 were announced on 10th January at the BETT Awards Dinner held at The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

The annual BETT Awards represent a partnership between Becta, the Government's lead agency for ICT in education, BESA, the trade association representing the educational supply industry and Emap Education, the organisers of BETT – the largest educational technology show in the world.

The awards also recognise outstanding education sector products and learning solutions. Judges review the entries based on criteria including design, cost-effectiveness, support of higher order skills and effective learning and teaching styles. The technical criteria against which the awards were judged focused on the robustness and resilience of each product, and its accessibility for those with specific needs.

This year's winners in each category are:

Category	Product	Supplier
Early Years Solutions	Simple City	2Simple Software
Digital Content – Primary (Core Subjects)	Interactive Literacy Year 3 & 4	Smart Learning Ltd
Digital Content – Primary (Other)	ArtisanCam	Artists@work in partnership with CLEO (Cumbria and Lancashire Online)
Digital Content – Secondary (Core Subjects)	Cabri 3D	Cabrilog/Chartwell-Yorke
Digital Content – Secondary (Other)	SoundJunction	Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music with Atticmedia Ltd
Primary and Secondary Hardware	TurningPoint 2006	Turning Technologies /Steljes Ltd
Special Educational Needs Solutions	Clicker 5	Crick Software
Post 16 Education and Training Digital Content	AutoLAB	LJ Group
Supporting Institutional Leadership and Management Solutions	SAM Learning Plus	SAM Learning Ltd
e-Assessment for Learning	MAPS eQUALIFICATIONS	TAG Learning
Creative and Constructive Tools	Gridmagic	Q4 Technologies Ltd

Ray Barker, Director of BESA and joint-chair of judges said 'From an industry point of view the winners of the BETT Awards are celebrated worldwide as a benchmark of quality and innovation. What has made BETT and the UK ICT industry the best in the world has been the variety of approach and the innovation of their content and perspectives. The winners of these Awards always reflect this challenging situation.'

Stephen Crowne, Chief Executive of Becta, said: "Technology has enormous potential to improve learning. Used well it helps develop personalised teaching and learning: it helps improve opportunity and choice for all, narrows attainment gaps and helps children, young people and adult learners reach their full potential. Congratulations to the award winners who, through their innovative and robust products and services, are helping to transform education."

Briony Mansell-Lewis, Group Head of Events at organisers Emap Education summarises by stating; "The awards continue to recognise the high calibre of products and services within our sector and encourage the increase in standards."

Transformational Government: 551 government websites are to be 'scrapped'

DfES

The Cabinet Office annual report '*Transformational Government: enabled by technology*' says that at least 551 government websites are to be axed to make access to information easier for citizens and businesses. Content from these sites may be absorbed within main departmental sites.

Already gone are the National Grid for Learning, Building the Grid and ICT Advice. Others to go include NC Action, Teacher Resource Exchange, Becta Matrix and the The Standards Site!

Information of continuing relevance from closed sites will transfer to www.direct.gov.uk and www.businesslink.gov.uk.

The full list of sites relating to DfES which are to be 'scrapped' or relocated may be found at:
<http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=7377>

Becta's recommendations on Windows Vista and Office 2007

Becta

Becta have published an interim report which examines adoption and deployment issues associated with Microsoft's Vista and Office 2007 products. Recommendations concern additional functionality available, coherence of the ICT estate and the costs of deployment.

In the report Becta recommends that schools do not upgrade to Windows Vista and Office 2007 immediately, since extra costs will outweigh initial benefits.

The report can be downloaded from <http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=28199>.

Key Stage 3 (KS3) ICT onscreen test

National Assessment Agency

Following QCA's advice, Minister Jim Knight has announced that the test will no longer become statutory. Instead, it will serve as a valuable educational tool aimed at supporting teaching and learning, to promote pupil progression. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) will be making improvements to the existing ICT test, to make it more useful for formative assessment.

In the meantime, the NAA encourages all schools to continue with preparations for the 2007 pilot, which will go ahead as planned this summer. The pilot test gives schools access to a useful ICT assessment tool, which can be used as part of the usual assessment regime at the end of the key stage 3 programme of study. Secondly, staff administering the pilot will gain valuable experience in using onscreen assessment systems and pupils will gain experience of taking e-assessments.

The NAA will continue to keep schools updated on the 2007 pilot, and future developments of the test, through the regular KS3 ICT onscreen test Countdown newsletter. The next issue will be in mid January.

For more information, please visit www.naa.org.uk/ks3ictpilot

Further information on the tests, plus a faq section may be found at
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/secondary/ks3/year9tests/ictpilot/>
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/secondary/ks3/year9tests/ictpilot/ks3ictfaqs/>

The Essential Guide To The Key Stage 3 ICT Test: <http://www.naa.org.uk/naaks3/>

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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