

## e-Update February 2007

Welcome to the 25th 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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### **Creativity and Innovation in the use of ICT to Personalise Learning Conference and Exhibition** *Mike Woods, ICT Adviser*

**When: Thursday 22nd February 2007 from 10.30am to 4.30pm**

**Where:** Civic Centre, Aylesbury

**Why:** Come along and discover some of the exciting work being done by Buckinghamshire schools as they develop a creative and Innovative approach to Personalised Learning through the medium of ICT and have a chance to see some of the recent developments in ICT hardware and software from over 40 leading suppliers.

**How:** We are able to offer each school that sends a delegate to this important event, £75 to offset some of their costs. There will also be a free lunch and a free bottle of wine offered to the first 100 delegates to register online.

**What:** The DfES has stated that all pupils should have access to a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) by 2008 and in a seminar session, Paul Adams of Buckingham Primary School and Emily Pool of Winslow Church of England Combined School will share their experiences of how they are developing their schools' VLEs and show us just how easy it is to start working on this important initiative.

Due to the expected interest in these important developments, we are planning to run the seminar twice, once at 11.00 am and again at 1.30 pm. Available space at each seminar will be limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

You will also be able to see some of the innovative work being done in the Gigajam project, when Jeremy Dawson of The Beaconsfield School demonstrates how the collaborative use of ICT and broadband technology is making a real difference to music making by pupils across the County, and if you are interested in this creative and enjoyable use of ICT and music you can find out how your school can join in the fun too!

In addition, at the conference we will be launching the new BucksGfL Broadband User Support System which includes access to 'Webscreen', the latest web filtering system designed to allow each school much more control of how it uses the Internet than is currently possible.

***It's not too late to book!*** Please register for the conference online at:

[http://www.consult-ed.co.uk/EML/register\\_event.asp?EventID=527](http://www.consult-ed.co.uk/EML/register_event.asp?EventID=527)

For further information please contact: Mike Woods, ICT Adviser ([mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk)) or Karen Fagan ([kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk)). Tel no. 01296 428402.

## **Discounted Software for Buckinghamshire LEA Schools**

**Mike Woods, ICT Adviser**

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has 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).

## **Training in Video Conferencing to support Gigajam Project Schools**

**Mike Woods, ICT Adviser**

We are running a half-day course on Video Conferencing to support Gigajam Project Schools in their work as a group with mentor and protégé schools.

This important session will be held at the Teaching and Learning Centre in Aylesbury on Wednesday 14 March, 12.30 - 15.30. Gigajam Project Schools will be able to claim £100 per school to offset some of the expenses for any colleagues attending. There will also be a free sandwich lunch.

All project schools are urged to send a colleague to attend the training, as not only will this session give colleagues within the project the opportunity to share their experiences in using Gigajam in their schools but also allow us to identify schools to be featured in an upcoming edition of the nationally circulated Yamaha Education Supplement "YES" magazine (see articles from previous editions by following this link [http://www.yamaha-europe.com/yamaha\\_europe/uk/service/510\\_music\\_education/10\\_news/index.html](http://www.yamaha-europe.com/yamaha_europe/uk/service/510_music_education/10_news/index.html)).

Please reply as soon as possible to book a place on this training directly to Mike Woods by email to: [mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk) or by telephone to Karen Fagan at the Teaching and Learning Centre on 01296 428402.

## **Becta's ICT Excellence Awards are now open for entries**

**Becta**

Entering its second year, the ICT Excellence Awards aim to identify and reward whole school excellence in ICT. They look for schools across the whole of the UK approaching ICT in outstanding and innovative ways.

Winning schools will receive prize money of up to £6000, as well as opportunities to share their excellent practice with others.

The categories, open to both primary and secondary sectors, are Assessment, Curriculum, Extending Learning Opportunities, Inclusion, Leadership and Management, Learning and Teaching and Best Whole School. In addition to the schools categories and new to this year is the Support for Schools category for organisations supporting school improvement with ICT. All categories are closely aligned with elements of Becta's self-review framework and the ICT Mark.

To find out more about the ICT Excellence Awards and to enter online, go to <http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards/>.

Don't miss the deadline of 23 March 2007!

## **QCA launches secondary curriculum review consultation**

**QCA**

On 5<sup>th</sup> February QCA launched the online consultation on proposed changes to the national curriculum at Key Stage 3 through the secondary curriculum review.

The proposed programmes of study will give teachers a more flexible, less prescriptive framework for teaching, creating more scope to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of each individual student. The change of focus within the curriculum will provide a firm foundation for education post -14, and includes specific transitional material to ensure smooth progress to key stage 4 and beyond.

Ken Boston, Chief Executive of QCA said:

"The National Curriculum has been a feature of education in England since the late 1980s and it is vital that it develops over time. This review is an important step in modernising the curriculum for children aged 11 and above. This online consultation provides an opportunity for everyone to participate in shaping this new curriculum.

"Whilst the content and core values of the programmes of study remain at the heart of the curriculum, we want to examine the aims as well - why a subject matters as well as learning about it. We are seeking to make learning an active rather than passive event, encouraging field trips and study outside classrooms in an effort to get pupils to understand how these subjects are related to the outside world.

"We also want to encourage schools to be innovative in the way that they plan the school timetable. Teaching subjects together, group projects or school visits can all help to make pupils more enthusiastic about learning. Through creating this kind of curriculum, we will achieve our objective of producing successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said:

"This review will offer schools the prospect of opening up the curriculum in a way that has not happened since the national curriculum came into being in 1988."

The consultation on the revised programmes of study and supporting materials can be found at <http://www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview/>. Further information on the secondary curriculum review can be found at <http://www.qca.org.uk/14931.html>.

The formal consultation period will run from 5 February 2007 to 30 April 2007. Schools will receive the final statutory programmes of study in autumn 2007 for teaching from autumn 2008. There will then be a three-year period from 2008-2010 for schools to implement the revised programmes of study.

### **Food - a fact of life website**

#### ***DfES***

'Cooking and food skills' is the latest addition to the Food – a fact of life website, which can be accessed by following the link below. It provides detailed support and guidance for primary schools about establishing and promoting cooking activities with children.

In addition to providing worksheets, interactive activities and presentations, this new module features 22 exciting videos showing food skills being demonstrated and recipes being made. These are supported by easy-to-follow recipes and teacher guidance.

All resources can be downloaded and used in the classroom with pupils. The materials are also suitable for children with special needs or lower-ability pupils in secondary schools.

Work has also started on a Food and Farming module, which will be launched in September 2007, at the start of the Year of Food and Farming.

URL: <http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/>

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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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