

## e-Update March 2007

Welcome to the 26th 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).

If you wish to unsubscribe from e-Update, please send an email to [adickson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk) with the title **Unsubscribe**.

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### **“WebScreen”™ BucksGfL’s new Internet Web Filtering system**

**Mike Woods – County Adviser, ICT**

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is important to us all. The BucksGfL Internet Web Filtering Policy has been developed to help schools ensure the safety of their pupils as they use the Internet, whilst at the same time retaining the flexibility needed for effective teaching and learning. Head teachers will already appreciate that supervision and education of Internet users is as important as the use of any software solution, since the filtering of a school's Internet connection alone cannot guarantee the absolute safety of its pupils and staff. Filtering is, however, a necessary first step to ensure the school has taken all reasonable steps to protect pupils and staff. Historically, Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning has provided two default whole county level filtering policies to its schools. These are the primary and the secondary policies, however in some cases schools have found these policies too restrictive and we have therefore developed with Atomwide a new web filtering system - **WebScreen™**.

**Webscreen™** is a software solution which involves all available websites being scanned automatically for content. The sites are then classified into categories based on their content. These categories are then either allowed through for school use or blocked if they are deemed inappropriate, depending on the policy being applied (full details of the **Webscreen™** system and these categories can be viewed at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=49>)

Head teachers may now elect to make use of the **WebScreen™ “School-level filtering”** option available through the new BucksGfL Support Site (<https://support.atomwide.com/>). Through this site, authorised users can create and apply policies at school level which allow access to categories of websites, or specific website addresses (URLs), that are not considered suitable to be allowed under the whole county level filtering policies but may have educational merit in certain circumstances (although some categories such as ‘adult content’ will continue to be blocked at a whole county level).

N.B. Head teachers choosing to take up this option should realise that the risks of exposure to inappropriate content by pupils, or abuse of the schools network, are higher when pupils are permitted to access sites which would not be permitted under the county level filtering policies. As a result, schools implementing these options will need to ensure that correspondingly high levels of pupil supervision are used when and where the Internet is being accessed.

**Ultimately the headteacher, in conjunction with the governing body, is responsible for internet safety.**

If a school chooses NOT to use the **Webscreen™** system, the default county wide policies will continue to be applied. If a school wishes to take up this option, then Head teachers are requested to complete the Filtering Manager nomination form found at the end of this document and fax it to Atomwide. The nominated member of staff will also be required to undergo a short training session (at no cost to the school) to ensure that the filtering system is clearly understood and the implications and potential impact of any change to local school settings are recognised.

This training session will take place at the Teaching and Learning Centre, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8EF, (Tel. 01296 428402) on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 3.30 – 5.00pm** and if you wish to book a place, I would be grateful if you would complete the booking request form that has been sent to your school with a copy of this letter and return it to Karen Fagan by fax to 01296 392920. Alternatively, send an email to [kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk). with the name of your school and the member of staff who will be attending.

**Note:** The BucksGfL “Webscreen”™ Filtering Manager Nomination Form can be downloaded from <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=49>.

### **ICT Schools Team – Urgent Laptop offer** **Steve Rowland, ICT Schools Team**

The ICT Schools Team are delighted to announce that the special pricing on the Dell Latitude D520 is back again. If your school needs to purchase some laptops (for teachers or student use) then this fantastic deal offers a discount of over **40%**.

The specification is very similar to last year with a Dell Latitude D520, Intel Core 2 Duo 1.66GHz (667MHz, 2MB cache), 15” screen, 1GB memory, 60GB hard drive, **no floppy drive or USB key**, DVD/CDRW, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g WiFi, Windows XP Pro, Office 2003 Pro (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher), Sophos AntiVirus, 4 USB ports, **3 year on-site warranty**, 2 button optical scroll mouse, carry case, serial, Firewire and desktop expansion ports for **£627**. Please note that there is no “PS/2” port to connect old keyboards or mice, and no parallel port to connect old printers.

This price is **£12 less** than last year and now includes twice the memory (1GB instead of 512MB), a larger hard drive (60GB instead of 40GB), Bluetooth connectivity but the USB key has been removed because schools can frequently purchase them elsewhere at a better price.

For schools with a Microsoft School Agreement including Office Pro, the cost would be reduced to £595. An additional charge of £15 per laptop will apply for schools that have not bought a Sophos site licence.

Orders need to be emailed to [ICTSchools@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:ICTSchools@buckscc.gov.uk) with a subject of “**Laptop order**” before **March 30<sup>th</sup>** so that we can arrange delivery at the start of the summer term. This offer will be repeated during the summer term with a closing date of May 25<sup>th</sup> – hopefully at the same price. Please confirm the number of laptops, the name of the school, the “code” to be used for the recharge (through the co-ordinated billing system) and whether you have a Microsoft “School Agreement”. Billing will of course be in the 2007/8 financial year.

If you have any technical queries about the specification of the laptops please contact PC Support, ICT Schools Team on 01494 540202.

### **Signposts to Safety-for classroom practitioners**

#### ***Becta***

You may already be familiar with this publication for classroom practitioners which signposts issues and risks, free resources and opportunities within the National Curriculum to teach safe and responsible online behaviour. This publication for KS3/4 has now been updated and a new companion publication for KS1/2 also developed.

Both of these publications will be available mid-March and announced via the Safetynet mail list - a vital link for all those charged with Safeguarding responsibilities. <http://lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/safetynet>. For further information email [ruth.hammond@becta.org.uk](mailto:ruth.hammond@becta.org.uk).

### **Have you found your way?**

#### ***Becta***

Becta’s well received DVD, “Finding your way with the self-review framework”, is now available online. Sections of the video have now been integrated into the relevant self-review framework sections (About, Benefits, Getting Started) of the schools area on the Becta website.

You can order the whole DVD via the Becta website at

<http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=26221&page=1835>.

The South West Grid for Learning have placed all of the DVD contents online at <http://www.swgfl.org.uk/srf/>.

## **Becta publish funding guidance for schools and local authorities**

### **Becta**

Becta has published a guidance document for schools and local authorities on how to make effective use of the specific ICT grants. The document is entitled '*Learning, teaching and managing with ICT: Funding guidance for schools and local authorities 2007-08*'.

This is the first time that funding guidance has been issued by Becta, previously this advice was issued by the Department for Education and Skills.

Stephen Crowne, Becta's Chief Executive, said, "*The fact that we are issuing this guidance for the first time reflects Becta's extended role in leading the educational community in applying and embedding new technology in learning, teaching and institutional improvement.*"

*"There is greater funding available for ICT than ever before. It is therefore important that schools consider the grants as a whole and decide how they can be used to achieve their individual priorities, and help meet the Government's priorities for education."*

The document places the guidance on funding within the context of the Government's e-strategy delivery plan and Becta's role in leading and co-ordinating it. It also emphasises that ICT spending should be seen as a key driver to help achieve e-strategy and wider Government objectives.

The document explains the details of the five grant areas available to schools as well as providing advice on how to use them. The five funding areas are:

- Devolved formula capital
- School Development Grant (Grant 101)
- National Digital Infrastructure for Schools (Grant 121)
- Electronic Learning Credits [eLCs] (Grant 122)
- Computers for Pupils (Grants 135 & 210)

The document also highlights key tools and support offered by Becta, including the self-review framework and procurement frameworks.

The '*Learning, teaching and managing with ICT: Funding guidance for schools and local authorities 2007-08*' publication is available to order or download from the Becta publications website <http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=30274>.

**Note 1:** The downloaded publication is the corrected version as the original contained errors.

**Note 2:** Recipients of the Becta guidance document have recently also received the following communication from Ian Adams, Executive Director, Partnerships, Commissioning, Marketing & Communications at Becta.

*"You will have recently received a copy of the above guidance from Becta, which we are pleased to confirm was formally announced by Jim Knight, Minister for Schools at the Naace annual conference on 27th February.*

*There are, however, a couple of amendments that you need to be aware of:*

#### *Page 17*

- *Section 6.4ii - the figure of £6.58\* should be £3.42*
- *Section 6.5 - the figure of £6.58\* should be £3.42*
- *This was the figure for 2006/07 and not 2007/08*

#### *Page 27*

- *URL following the last FAQ in the Maintained schools section should be:*

[\[http://www.teachernet.gov/docbank/index/index.cfm?id=7862\]](http://www.teachernet.gov/docbank/index/index.cfm?id=7862)

*Please accept our apologies for this confusion. An up-to-date version and further copies are available from <http://www.becta.org.uk/publications>. If you have specific queries about the guidance please email [communications@becta.org.uk](mailto:communications@becta.org.uk).*

## **BBC Jam suspended**

### **Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant**

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March the BBC suspended its online service BBC Jam pending a review. This was announced by the BBC press office only days before on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The suspension follows complaints to the European Commission from educational software companies and BESA, the British Educational Suppliers Association about the £150m project. They say the service, designed as a learning resource for children aged five to 16 in support of the national curriculums, damages their businesses.

Acting BBC Trust chairman Chitra Bharucha said the trust regretted the need to suspend the service. She apologised to users of BBC Jam and to the corporation's staff and suppliers affected by the decision.

Full details can be found at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6449619.stm>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/news/press\\_releases/14\\_03\\_2007.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/news/press_releases/14_03_2007.html)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2007/03\\_march/14\\_jam.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2007/03_march/14_jam.shtml)

BESA's response to the suspension can be found at <http://www.besa.org.uk/besa/news/view.jsp?item=983>.

## **BBC plans online children's world**

### **BBC**

A virtual world which children can inhabit and interact with is being planned by the BBC.

CBBC, the channel for 7-12 year olds, said it would allow digitally literate children the access to characters and resources they had come to expect. Users would be able to build an online presence, known as an avatar, then create and share content.

Bosses said CBBC World would not have the financial aspects of other online worlds such as Second Life.

A spokesman said: "This kind of cross-platform broadcasting is becoming the norm for people who have been born into the digital world.

"It will give children a chance to move around a safe, secure world where they can not only interact with familiar characters but have an opportunity to make that world a more fascinating place with their own imaginations."

Those building CBBC World said the emphasis would be on safety and responsibility, with no chatrooms or facilities for building new parts of the virtual world.

It is expected to go live in the summer with a full launch in the autumn to coincide with the CBBC relaunch.

BBC children's controller Richard Deverell said: "CBBC World is a good example of the way we need to go. The thing that interests me is that children are at the vanguard. And that is where we are taking Children's BBC."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/6290585.stm>.

## **Learning Together through the Global Gateway**

### **Global Gateway**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which marked the foundation of the EU, a year-long project, Learning Together, aims to increase partnerships between the UK and other European schools, through programmes such as Comenius and eTwinning.

Comenius: <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=1554>

eTwinning: <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=3095>

Every school in the UK has received a special free booklet entitled Learning Together with details and case studies about the programmes that can support EU based partnerships. You can download it from <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/pdf/LearningTogether.pdf>.

For more on the project, see: <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=2478>.

## Free European Maps for Schools

### European Commission

This year, 2007, we celebrate as always Europe Day on 9 May

[http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/index_en.htm)

and the European Day of Languages on 26 September

<http://www.ecml.at/edl/Default.asp?l=E>.

We will also be marking the 50th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome on 25 March. To celebrate these events, the European Commission's office in the UK <http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/> is making available 90,000 maps of Europe (new 2007 edition) to schools in the UK on a first come first served basis.

[http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/publications/maps/map\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/publications/maps/map_en.htm)

or

<http://www.europe.org.uk/maps/>

These wall maps are plasticized and approximately one square meter in size. They show EU member states and candidate countries for membership, and give some basic statistical data. They are multi-lingual with all names of countries, cities etc. given in their national language(s).

We are glad to offer the maps (normal sales price €20) completely free-of-charge to any school or other education service in the UK, not excluding of course other multipliers such as libraries, universities etc..

The maps will be available from your local Europe Direct Centre (<http://www.europe.org.uk/infolinks/-/ctid/8/>) and other outlets. Delivery of the maps is expected for late spring 2007, though we will start collecting your orders as from now for immediate despatch upon arrival.

Feel free to request as many maps as your school requires. To do this, complete the form at

[http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/publications/maps/map\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/publications/maps/map_en.htm)

On the same web page, you can download a pdf version of the map (6 Mb.)

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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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