

e-Update June 2007

Welcome to the 29th 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**.

Receiving e-Update emails from September 2007

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

In the 2½ years since e-Update was first published, the readership has continued to increase. Managing a subscription list manually has become increasingly difficult. To make things easier, from September there will be a new process for sending e-Update by email. This will be done through the BucksGfL website. This is only available to teachers in Buckinghamshire.

To continue to receive e-Update by email from September, you will need to do the following:

1. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.
2. Click on the **Login** link in the top right corner.
3. Login using your BucksGfL username and password (your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address i.e. the bit before the @. Your password is the same as for your email).
4. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
5. You will be asked if you would like to enrol on the e-Update course. Choose **Yes**.

Once you are enrolled, you will be emailed each edition of e-Update to your BucksGfL email address when they are posted on the BucksGfL website.

Note: If you don't wish to use your BucksGfL email address or don't have one (i.e. you are outside Buckinghamshire) then e-Update will still be available to you. However, you will have to visit this course <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126> or the BucksICT website <http://www.bucksict.org.uk> to download each edition.

Crick Special Offer Discounts to Buckinghamshire LEA Schools

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has negotiated exclusive special offers for Buckinghamshire LEA schools for a limited period on **Clicker 5**, **Clicker Paint** and **Clicker Phonics**.

If you order through The ICT Curriculum Support Team between now and the 20th July 2007, you will make significant savings on purchases for your school – **25% on full versions and 15% on upgrades**.

Note: All orders will be placed at the end of term and the software should be delivered to you by Crick at the start of the autumn term.

For further details, download the order form at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/SchoolSupport/Crick%20Special%20Offer.pdf>

Computer Trolleys

Caroline Nash, The Downley School

We have 12 computer trolleys in excellent condition that are no longer needed. £20 ono. Please email cnash@downley.bucks.sch.uk if you would like one or more!

Buckinghamshire School in the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge National Final

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

Congratulations go to **Elangeni School** who are one of the 11 primary schools to make it through to the national final of the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge on 29th June at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire. We wish them the best of luck.

Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2007/8 in Buckinghamshire

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

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, the Specialist Schools Trust, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, smartassess, Quizdom, Texas Instruments, Swallow Systems, Rewards4Schools, Wildern School and North West City Learning Centre (CLC).

The Challenge involves students, aged 10 to 16, working together in small teams to try and set up a race between virtual Grand Prix cars using tried and tested motor racing simulation software. The work needed to do this can be undertaken in a series of maths lessons or as part of a maths club activity - it's up to you! Both boys and girls will become involved in the delights of long division, long multiplication, percentages, scale, 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 2007/08 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2007/08 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 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 knockout round in March 2008. Schools that make it through the knockout round will meet in April 2008 for the Buckinghamshire Final. The Buckinghamshire primary, KS3 and KS4 winners will then race with other LEA winners in the national semi-final knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June 2008.

A leaflet with information on the Maths Challenge including pricing and an order form for the Cars: Maths in Motion software is available here:

<http://www.bucksict.org.uk/Teacher%20Resources/CarsMIM.htm>

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=127>

Any Buckinghamshire schools who would like to be involved in the Maths Challenge should contact Andy Dickson, tel. 01296 428402, email adickson@bucksgov.uk.

Wi-fi health issues

Becta

Following the Panorama programme on Monday 21 May 2007, Becta has been in contact with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) - the government agency responsible for health and safety - to obtain the latest guidance on any health issues relating to wireless technology.

Despite the claims made in the programme, the HPA's guidance remains the same. The latest advice on their website (http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wifi.htm) reads:

"On the basis of current scientific information wi-fi equipment satisfies international guidelines. There is no consistent evidence of health effects from RF exposures below guideline levels and therefore no reason why schools and others should not use wi-fi equipment."

Based on this guidance, and expert safety advice, Becta believes that there is no need to change its current guidance: while secure wireless networks can complement an institution's wired network, they should not replace it.

Further information on wi-fi safety is available on the Health Protection Agency website <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>.

Note: This article can be found on the Becta website at:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_saf_hs_03&rid=13417

Screenonline - the British Film Institute (BFI)

SEGfL

Screenonline - the British Film Institute (BFI) comprehensive online learning resource dedicated to the history of British film and television – is now freely available to every school in the UK through the National Education Network (NEN).

No further registration is required for SEGfL schools.

<http://www.screenonline.org.uk/>

Screenonline is "The Definitive Guide to British Film and Television" in the UK, with over 300 hours of media clips. It provides resources to support the curriculum including Media Studies, English, History and Citizenship and RE. By delivering the archive over the NEN using schools broadband, the aim of the project is to give improved quality of delivery on each of the films and give schools access to key resources within the secure, safe and service-rich environment of the NEN.

With the exponential increase in use of digital video by teachers and pupils - both as creators and consumers - the need for resources that support the development of 'media literacy' becomes an increasingly important part of both the formal and informal 'curriculum' in all phases of education. Screenonline will provide a national and common centre for a wide range of such resources with the particular reference point of UK film and television freeing up teachers and support agencies to focus on 'personalisation', 'attainment' and the 'global dimension'...

From a home or non-school location you can access much of the website content, including the Archive Interactives but not the media clips which are only available, due to copyright restrictions, from school or college locations. Increasingly users in libraries will also be able to access the full resources.

ICT Schools Team, BucksGfL reaches 200 connections

Karen Wilkinson, ICT Schools Team

School Improvement and the ICT Schools Team have been working together to encourage the take up of Broadband Internet in schools as part of BucksGfL. We are delighted to announce that St Peter's C of E Combined School in Burnham was the 200th connection — this includes Secondary, Special, Primary, Nursery schools and PRUs. With another 14 schools still in the pipeline we are delighted to be part of this success.

If you have yet to join, it is not too late to get the major benefits of a fast and secure Internet connection that is the only way to access the National Education Network. BucksGfL also includes free email for all staff and students that is checked for spam and viruses together with a free Virtual Learning Environment and £2,000

worth of Espresso (BETT 2004 Award winner). Free training is available from the ICT Curriculum Support Team on Espresso and the VLE. Using the broadband links, SIMS workshops at the ICT Schools Team Great Hampden Centre now allow staff to work on SIMS back in school without disrupting the school network. Further advances are planned to simplify and improve the ICT Schools Team service & response that will only be available on BucksGfL. Backups of servers can be easily achieved using the Remote Backup Service for Schools (RBUSS) for both admin and curriculum networks to avoid the insecurity of tape backup systems.

Finally, we are also delighted to confirm that the current reduced price for BucksGfL will now continue until March 31st 2009. Unfortunately, due to uncertainty about long term funding from the DfES we have to presume that the price will revert to the full price after this date.

Contact: Karen Wilkinson . Tel: 01494 540202

ICT Schools Team, How much does a PC cost?

Steve Rowland, ICT Schools Team

It seems such a simple question that everyone should be able to answer and yet lurking behind that simplicity is a much more complex issue that can cost schools thousands of pounds. In reality what matters is the "Total Cost of Ownership" (TCO) of ICT equipment and during an ICT Health check by internal Audit it was found that most schools do not realize or calculate their total ICT costs. Without understanding the TCO it is impossible to obtain "Best Value". The document linked below will attempt to highlight the areas to consider if your school wants to save money on ICT. Establishing the TCO for purchasing is also a Council regulation.

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/schools/documents/bulletin/73_tco_how_much_does_pc_cost.doc

Related Web Links:

BECTa: Managing ICT costs in schools: summary

<http://publications.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=25943&page=1835>

BECTa: ICT investment planner

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_bud_fp_03&rid=10964

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*.

Disclaimer and Copyright Notice

The information contained in e-Update is collated from a range of non-Buckinghamshire LEA sources. Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team does not accept any liability for its accuracy or content. If you rely on this information you do so at your own risk. All information may be copied for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged.