

e-Update July 2007

Welcome to the 30th 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.

Note: There will be no e-Update published in August.

The information in e-Update has been taken from a variety of sources including Becta. Details on how to subscribe to these and other sources of information can be found at the end of e-Update.

For information on how to subscribe to/ unsubscribe from e-Update, please see the section towards 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.

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 schools that are connected to BucksGfL Broadband.

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**.
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Elangeni School are the Champions!

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

Congratulations go to **Elangeni School** who are the National Primary Champions of the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2006/7!! They competed against 10 other primary schools in the national final on 29th June. Overall they were 4th in the race, - only 3 secondary teams did better than them. Conversely, Elangeni were better than 19 secondary teams and 10 primary teams!

Further details about the final can be found at

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/mod/resource/view.php?id=6321>.

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@buckscc.gov.uk.

Cars Maths in Motion – free training for Buckinghamshire LA schools

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

The ICT Curriculum Support Team are pleased to be able to offer free training to Buckinghamshire LA schools for the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2007/8.

Note: The course is free of charge to Buckinghamshire LA schools providing that they submit an entry into the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2007/8. Schools that do not submit an entry will be subsequently charged for the course at the standard LA rate.

This hands-on course will show teachers how to use the Cars: Maths in Motion software. There will be discussions on how to use this with children and how the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge works.

For those wishing to attend, there is a choice of two training sessions on Friday 21st September 2007 at the Buckinghamshire Teaching and Learning Centre – 9.30am or 1.30pm.

If you wish to apply for this training, please contact Karen Fagan on 01296 428402. If you have any queries, please contact Andy Dickson on the same number or via email: adickson@buckscc.gov.uk.

DfES becomes DCSF

DfES/DCSF

Three new departments were set up by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007. They replace the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is responsible for improving the focus on all aspects of policy affecting children and young people, as part of the Government's aim to deliver educational excellence. DCSF will be responsible for children's services, families, schools, 14-19 and the Respect Taskforce, which transfers from the Home Office.

Two other new government departments were also set up – the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR).

Don't forget to update your bookmarks – <http://www.dfes.gov.uk> still exists but will eventually be replaced by <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>.

June TechNews now available

Becta

TechNews is a free technology news and analysis service aimed at those in the education sector keen to stay informed about technology developments, trends and issues. TechNews focuses on emerging technologies and other technology news.

Published once every half-term, each issue contains news and analysis related to the following main subject areas: Networking and Wireless; Multimedia; Hardware; Software and Internet.

For further information and to subscribe, please see <http://www.becta.org.uk/technews>.

Self Review Framework for ICT Progress Chart

Becta

This chart provides a visual guide of the self-review framework elements, strands and levels. Schools can use this chart, supplied with green and amber stickers, to show which levels they are currently at and which levels they are currently working on.

Copies will be available to order from <http://publications.becta.org.uk/> shortly.

The way to the ICT Mark – DVD

Becta

The ICT Mark is available to all schools using the self-review framework.

This DVD gives a brief introduction to the self-review framework and ICT Mark assessment and three case studies; two schools who tell of their experiences of achieving the ICT Mark and one case study of a school going through the process of achieving the ICT Mark.

Copies will be available to order from <http://publications.becta.org.uk/> shortly.

New Secondary National Curriculum launched

QCA

On 12th July the QCA launched a new Secondary National Curriculum.

The QCA website states, "*The new programmes of study have been designed to give teachers a less prescriptive, more flexible framework for teaching, creating more scope to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of each individual student.*"

Chief Executive Ken Boston's speech at the launch of the Secondary National curriculum can be found at http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_12278.aspx.

The importance of ICT in the new Secondary National Curriculum is stressed in the new Programmes of Study for KS3 and KS4.

"The increasing use of technology in all aspects of society makes confident, creative and productive use of ICT an essential skill for life. ICT capability encompasses not only the mastery of technical skills and techniques, but also the understanding to apply these skills purposefully, safely and responsibly in learning,

everyday life and employment. ICT capability is fundamental to participation and engagement in modern society.

ICT can be used to find, develop, analyse and present information, as well as to model situations and solve problems. ICT enables rapid access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures, and allows pupils to collaborate and exchange information on a wide scale. ICT acts as a powerful force for change in society and citizens should have an understanding of the social, ethical, legal and economic implications of its use, including how to use ICT safely and responsibly. Increased capability in the use of ICT supports initiative and independent learning, as pupils are able to make informed judgements about when and where to use ICT to enhance their learning and the quality of their work."

The programmes of study for ICT at KS3 and KS4 can be downloaded from http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_12214.aspx and http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_12215.aspx respectively.

Subscribing/ Unsubscribing to e-Update

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 9. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
 10. On the left, click on the **Unenrol me from e-Update**.
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Subscription Details

Becta

To subscribe to ICT Advice, visit <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=il&catcode=registration>.

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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