

## e-Update September 2007

Welcome to the 31st 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 Becta and other information sources. Details on how to subscribe to these 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](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

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### 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 this month 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, 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**.

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### 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](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

### **ICT Schools Team – Laptop Offer**

#### ***Karen Wilkinson, 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 2006 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 Monday 15th October 2007. 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.

## Google Earth

### **Ian Usher, E-Learning Co-ordinator**

Buckinghamshire are working with Google to get a county-wide key for the professional version of Google Earth, which offers teachers better printing options and the ability to perform more types of measurement than the free version of the software. If you would like to be kept up to date with this and find out when the key becomes available then login to the BucksGfL at [www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/login](http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/login) and then visit [www.bucksgfl.org.uk/googleearth](http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/googleearth) to join the Bucks Google Earth area.

## **“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 Buckinghamshire Teaching and Learning Centre, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP21 8EF, (Tel. 01296 334994) on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October from 4.00 – 6.00pm** 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>.

## Online Safety Review

### **Becta**

The announcement by the Prime Minister of a review to protect children from harmful images online and in computer games has been warmly welcomed by Becta.

Becta, the government's education technology agency, is already at the heart of a government drive to improve e-safety for children. As part of a review undertaken by the Home Office Task Force on Child Protection on the Internet earlier this year, Becta's Safe Use of ICT in Education group became the education sub-group of the Home Office task force. The group focuses on education and e-safety issues and reports directly to the Cabinet Office, putting the issue of e-safety at the very centre of government.

Becta is already working closely with other organisations with an interest in e-safety, such as the University of Lancashire and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. Both these organisations are part of a wider European initiative aimed at improving internet safety.

As part of this work earlier this year Becta published a checklist and guidelines for local authorities and local safeguarding children boards entitled '[Safeguarding Children Online](#)'.

Commenting on the announcement, Becta's Chief Executive, Stephen Crowne said, "For me, technology enables a world of possibilities for learning. We know that young people routinely see gaming and the internet in general as an exciting and informative place to explore and enjoy, but we must do everything we can to make sure that this is a safe environment. This means that there is a duty of care on parents and education practitioners when children are at home, at school or any other place where they use technology.

"With more than 75 per cent of 9- to 19-year-olds having access to the internet from a computer at home and 60 per cent of 13- to 17-year-olds having personal profiles on social networking sites, the need for a co-ordinated approach to education about possible dangers on the web has never been higher."

Stephen added, "We look forward to contributing to the review and helping achieve an environment where parents can help their children make the most of new technologies".

DCSF press release: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2007\\_0158](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0158)

Becta press release: <http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=33982&page=1658&catID=1633>

**Note:** Buckinghamshire has an e-Safety Guidance Document that can be found on the Bucks Grid for Learning Website in the Broadband Project area, section 13 at

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=49>.

Direct link to document: <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/file.php?file=/49/e-safetyguidance-june2007.pdf>

## SEGfL News

### **SEGfL**

SEGfL Free One Day Conference - Monday 25th September 2007

North East Area Professional Development Centre, Furnace Drive, Crawley, West Sussex. RH10 6JB

September sees the launch of NatureCam for schools across the SEGfL region. Combining the success of The Bird Box Project – broadcasting live video and pupil's reports across the National Education Network (NEN) - and the superb shared results from the Kent and Sussex RiverWatch project, NatureCam will provide a range of online curriculum activities for all key stages.

Colleagues are invited to an introductory day of presentations and workshops to share some of last year's successes and outline the various opportunities for collaboration during the next 12 months. The day is aimed at advisers and curriculum support leaders who may wish to coordinate a range of activities at local authority or regional level.

Full details and booking information are to be found in the Events section of the SEGfL website

<http://www.segfl.org.uk/events/>, email [conference@segfl.org.uk](mailto:conference@segfl.org.uk).

Modules include curriculum projects involving : videoconferencing, digital weather station data gathering, data handling and exchange, publishing and sharing remote camera video-streams, ask an expert sessions, focused topic sessions with professionals and other interactive broadband data sharing. Schools signing up to any of the NatureCam modules will be given free access to SEGfL broadband publishing tools: a mini

website, podcasting, digital video broadcasting and FlashMeeting videoconferencing. This conference will provide opportunities to hear the projects so far have significantly enhanced learning.

This project dovetails with the NEN / LGfL WeatherWatch project and Atomwide will be demonstrating the LGfL approved weather stations and how data is collected as part of the national weather project. SEGfL will be offering schools the chance to design and build their own weather data kit (or use suitable existing kit) and share results across the region. Topics will include Geography, Science, Mathematics, History, Art, English, Music MFL etc. The project will not only encourage schools to collect, analyse and present weather data, but report on weather and explore weather across the curriculum.

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## Subscribing/ Unsubscribing to e-Update

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### To unsubscribe:

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  8. 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).
  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 the various publications, click here: [Becta Schools Subscription Services](#)

### 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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