

## **e-Update October 2007**

Welcome to the 32nd 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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### **Advance notice of planned maintenance on the BucksGfL Broadband Network**

***Mike Woods, ICT Adviser***

Due to the disposal of the BucksCC offices at 29 Windsor End Beaconsfield, the network hub sited there is being moved to the new Adult Learning Centre in Beaconsfield. The move is taking place during the autumn half-term from the 22nd to 26th October 2007. The work is being carried out by BT in conjunction with our networking partners Telindus. This is a major change affecting 7 BucksCC office sites and 31 schools in the south of the county.

The move will affect sites in the area on various dates in October 2007 (detail shown below). Unfortunately the exact time of the scheduled outage on each day is unknown so you are best advised that the Internet connection cannot be guaranteed for that day and we apologise for this unavoidable disruption to your service.

#### **22nd October**

The Beaconsfield School  
Alfriston School  
Butler's Court School

#### **23rd October**

Wye Valley School  
Claytons Combined  
The Meadows School  
St. Paul's C of E Combined  
Juniper Hill School  
Westfield School  
Carrington Junior  
Carrington Infants  
Burnham Upper School  
Burnham Grammar School  
Dorney School  
Farnham Royal C of E Combined  
St Nicolas' C of E Combined  
St. Peter's C of E School  
Holtspur School  
Farnham Common Infant School  
St. Mary's & All Saints School

## **24th October**

Beaconsfield High School

## **25th October**

Iver Heath Infant and Nursery  
Iver Heath Junior School  
Iver Village Infant School  
Iver Village Junior School  
Chalfont St. Peter C of E School  
Chalfont St. Peter Infant School  
Stoke Poges School  
Tilehouse Combined School  
St. Josephs R. C. Combined School

For further information about BucksGfL please visit <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.

## **ICT Conference 2008**

### ***Mike Woods, ICT Adviser***

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 there will be an ICT Conference, "Creativity, Innovation and e-learning" at the Civic Centre, Aylesbury. Book this date in your diary! Further details will follow.

## **Implementing a personal online learning space**

### ***Becta***

By spring 2008 the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) expects your learners to have access to a personal online learning space. Your local authority has been given the responsibility (and the funding) for ensuring that this initial element of a learning platform is made available to your school.

A personal online learning space forms part of a wider set of technologies called a learning platform. It supports learning by providing access to:

- tools - for communication and collaboration including email, messaging, forums, wiki and blogs and for creating, developing and managing digital content
- an individual area for each learner (and member of staff) where they can store their work and personalise its layout to meet their needs
- safe and secure, anytime, any place access.

By March 2010 all schools will be using a learning platform which integrates with your information management systems. This in particular will simplify the delivery of your regular data returns with your local authority, as well as enabling seamless student transition with consequent savings in time and effort.

Full article: [http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss\\_lv\\_lp\\_03&rid=14413](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_lp_03&rid=14413)

**Note:** In Buckinghamshire we are providing all schools on BucksGfL Broadband with a VLE called Moodle, plus training (with supply cover costs) on its initial setup and use. For further details, contact Mike Woods, ICT Adviser [mawoods@bucksgfl.gov.uk](mailto:mawoods@bucksgfl.gov.uk) or Ian Usher, E-Learning Co-ordinator [iusher@bucksgfl.gov.uk](mailto:iusher@bucksgfl.gov.uk).

## **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).

## **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.

## **Health Protection Agency to conduct study into wi-fi exposure**

### ***Becta***

The decision by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to conduct further research into the exposure levels from wi-fi systems as part of a larger study in the area of electromagnetic fields has been welcomed by Becta, the government's education technology partner.

The health and safety advice offered by the HPA on the use of wi-fi has been consistent, and their latest guidance says that:

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

Becta's current guidance on the use of wi-fi equipment in schools is that it provides a useful and flexible option to compliment rather than replace hard wired systems.

Becta will be working closely with the HPA throughout the period of the two year study.

Further information about the study is available on the Health Protection Agency website.

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press\\_releases/2007/071012\\_wifi.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/071012_wifi.htm)

## **Becta response to the evaluation of the Primary Schools Whiteboard Expansion project**

### **Becta**

Becta welcomes the publication of the report from Manchester Metropolitan University into how interactive whiteboard technology is used in schools and its effects on pupil learning.

It builds on findings from previous evaluations to help us understand the impact of this technology as teachers embed it in their practice, and pupils' exposure to teaching with the interactive whiteboard increases.

The report shows that in some subjects, the more experience the teacher has of using the interactive whiteboard the greater the likelihood of positive attainment gains for pupils:

- In Key Stage 2 maths, average and high attaining boys and girls who had been taught extensively with the interactive whiteboard made the equivalent of an extra 2.5 to 5 months' progress over the course of two years.
- In Key Stage 2 science, all pupils except high attaining girls made greater progress with more exposure to the interactive whiteboard with low attaining boys making as much as 7.5 months' additional progress.
- In Key Stage 2 writing, boys with low prior attainment made 2.5 months of additional progress.

At Key Stage 1 there are indications of attainment gains once teachers have more fully integrated the use of the interactive whiteboard in their practice. In particular:

- In Key Stage 1 maths, high attaining girls made gains of 4.75 months, enabling them to catch up with high attaining boys.
- In Key Stage 1 science, there was improved progress for girls of all attainment levels, and for average and high attaining boys.
- In Key Stage 1 English, average and high attaining pupils benefited from increased exposure to interactive whiteboards.

The report also highlights how interactive whiteboards have very positive effects on the attention, attitude and motivation of all pupils and produce a co-operative, 'community of learning' ethos in the class.

Additionally it shows how interactive whiteboards help with the teaching of difficult, abstract and complex ideas – visual tools help pupils concentrate for longer and understand more fully and more easily what they are being taught.

Also interactive whiteboards give teachers a tool to enhance interaction with learners, increasing discussion of ideas and concepts between teachers and pupils.

Another benefit, specifically for younger children, is the drag-and-drop function which enables children to demonstrate their level of knowledge more easily before they have acquired writing skills, improving self-esteem and enabling teachers to assess learning potential.

Welcoming the research Stephen Crowne, Becta's Chief Executive, said, "This study clearly shows the benefits that can be gained from effective use of an interactive whiteboard. We know that technology has the capability of bringing lessons to life and making that much more enjoyable for the learner.

Not only do the lessons become more fun, the study shows the very real benefits in terms of learner attainment and engaging pupils in lessons."

The report is available to download from the Research area of the website.

[http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=re\\_rp\\_02&rid=14422](http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=re_rp_02&rid=14422)

### **Note**

The research was carried out between September 2004 and December 2006 and involved the collection and analysis of a large body of quantitative and qualitative data, including surveys of teachers and headteachers, visits to schools and local authorities, and teachers' log of interactive whiteboard use. The impact findings are based on an analysis of two substantial datasets:

- 4,116 pupils in Key Stage 2, in 172 classes, in 97 primary schools, in 20 local authorities in England.
- 3,156 pupils in Key Stage 1, in 160 classes, in 96 primary schools, in 20 local authorities in England.

The analysis took into account pupils' gender, term of birth, eligibility for free school meals and Special Educational Needs status.

This study measured the effects of exposure to teaching with the interactive whiteboard for longer than previous studies, giving an unprecedented picture of the impact of the technology over time.

### **Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools - Cyberbullying** **Teachernet**

Cyberbullying, like all bullying, should be taken very seriously. It is never acceptable, and a range of Education Acts and government guidance outline schools' duties and powers in relation to bullying.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) includes legal powers that relate more directly to cyberbullying; it outlines the power of headteachers to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off-site and provides a defence in relation to the confiscation of mobile phones and other items.

As more and more schools are having to respond to the growing challenge of cyberbullying, it is vital that schools understand the issue, know how to prevent and respond to incidents, and are updated on the legal issues surrounding this challenging subject.

The DCSF has worked with children's charity Childnet International to provide this guidance, which forms part of the anti-bullying guidance Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools. This document will help schools by providing important information and clear advice on the subject.

Please note that this publication can be ordered now but copies are not yet available and orders will be completed as soon as possible.

The guidance document can be ordered and downloaded from <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=spectrum&ProductId=DCSF-00658-2007>

### **Cyberbullying guidance - summary leaflet** **Teachernet**

This publication is a summary of the DCSF guidance for schools on preventing and responding to cyberbullying, which was written in conjunction with Childnet International and published in September 2007. This document seeks to give practical advice to young people, their carers and school staff about the issue of cyberbullying.

Today's children and young people have grown up in a world that is very different from that of most adults. Many young people experience the internet and mobile phones as a positive, productive and creative part of their activities and development of their identities; always on and always there. Above all, information communication technologies support social activity that allows young people to feel connected to their peers.

The summary leaflet can be ordered and downloaded from <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=spectrum&ProductId=DCSF-00685-2007&>

## **Subscribing/ Unsubscribing to e-Update**

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4. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
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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**.
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